## GMA allies pushing for transitional president in '04

Story Below, Col. I

### Congressman scores PDI for 'fiery' headline

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said that despite the planned protest actions of militant groups, she expected the majority of Filipinos to mount a "warm" welcome for US President George W. Bush on Oct. 18.

Ms Macapagal issued the statement following the announcement of the peasant group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilip-

CONGRESSMAN/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

### Gov't doing a Taliban, says opposition solon

By C. Pablo
and C. Balana

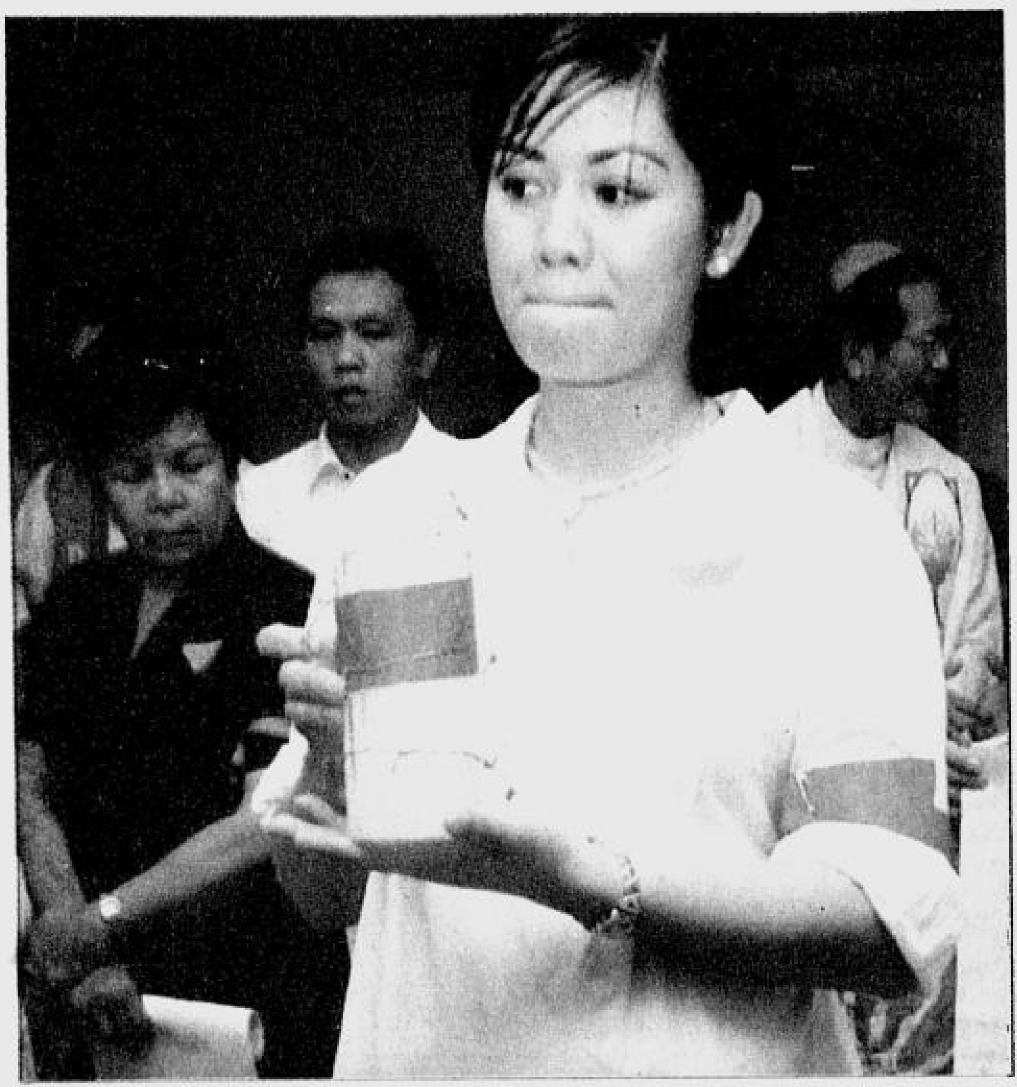
PULIS PA RIN 'YAN MASKI AFTER OFFICE HOURS

WITH its obsession for lifestyle and night life checks, the Macapagal administration is going the way of the repressive Taliban

GOV'T/ A8

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Thursday, September 18, 2003 ★★ 42 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 282 P15 website: www.inq7.net

# Night of the generals



JOAN BONDOC

TO OFFER support and solidarity with the soldiers detained for the July 27 mutiny, their loved ones like Minnie Alejano (foreground) and Estelita Trillanes (left), mother of Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV attend Mass said by Bishop Bacani (right) at St. Peter's Church in Quezon City.

## But this morning, GMA meeting with more than 100 retired officers

By Fe Zamora, *Inq7.net*
and Alcuin Papa

**MORE than 100 retired and active military officers, including some who have been meeting with antiadministration civil society and militant groups, will meet today with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang as resentment among soldiers continues to simmer allegedly because of corruption in government and the Armed Forces.**

"We will show our support for her administration," said retired Brig. Gen. Ernesto Gidaya, president of the Association of Generals and Flag Officers. Agfo has more than 600 members, including retired generals and flag officers.

Retired Brig. Gen. Pete Navarro, however, said he was not attending because he was not a hypocrite. "It will just be a monologue (by the President)," Navarro told guests at the Council of Philippine Affairs (Copa) meeting, which was also attended by retired generals Thomas Diaz, Antonio Villanueva and Salvador Flores and certain retired colonels Ramos, Baguyo and Villacorta.

Navarro noted that soldiers, who wanted to voice out against corruption, were being "suppressed."

Navarro cited a recent dialogue in Zamboanga between soldiers and ranking military officers during which soldiers were not authorized to ask their superior questions.

"If you talk against corruption, does that mean you are a destabilizer? *Ayaw namin ng gulo* (We don't want trouble). But as it is, the prevailing practice is 'all for me, no more for the others,'" Navarro said.

The same invitation to meet with Ms Macapagal was extended to the Last Watering Hole (LWH), a social club that includes retired military officers of all ranks. Both Agfo and LWHI get funding support from the Armed Forces.

Gidaya said the meeting with the President was arranged by retired Maj. Gen. Victor Mayo, a deputy of National Security Adviser Roilo Golez. Mayo wanted "500 officers" both active and re-

NIGHT/ A8

RANDY HORMILLOSA

FATHER and daughter, Peping Cojuangco and Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski at a meeting Tuesday night of the Council of Philippine Affairs listen intently to retired generals airing the country's problems. Copa has been holding a series of meetings "to hear the people and come up with a definitive answer to society's problems."

## Bacani says mutineers stirred conscience of nation

By Jerome Aning

CONTROVERSY begets controversy.

The controversial Bishop Teodoro Bacani said Mass at St. Peter's Church on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, yesterday morning for those whom the Oakwood mutineers love best.

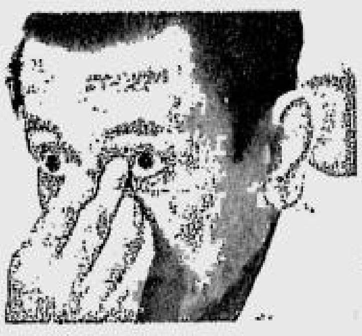
In his homily, Bacani noted that "while they (the mutineers) may have erred in their method of reforming society, we can learn from it. Their intentions were good and have stirred the nation's conscience."

About 500 relatives of the 300 soldiers detained for participating in the abortive mutiny last July 27 renewed their appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo to release their loved ones, saying it would help foster stability in her administration.

BACANI/ A8

## Guingona hits 'black prop' campaign against him

By Gerald G. Lacuarta



JES YUSON

THAT famous glare Vice President Teofisto Guingona reserves for his detractors including those with Palace links.

VICE President Teofisto Guingona yesterday brushed aside suggestions that he be sanctioned by the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats for opposing party positions on a number of issues.

"I am not bothered at all," Guingona said at a meeting with reporters. "This is no big deal for me. There are more fundamental challenges to this nation that needs my attention."

Guingona said he was deeply saddened by indications that certain groups, including those with close links to Malacañang, have started a black propaganda campaign to pressure him to resign not only as president of Lakas-CMD but also as Vice President of the country.

Text messages circulated during the weekend claiming that Guingona was resigning as Vice President or was stepping down as party president.

Guingona's spokesperson, Danilo Venida, said the Vice President "will never allow himself to be intimidated or cowed against speaking and acting in defense of truth, national interest and public welfare."

"It is the hope and conviction of the Vice President that his colleagues in Lakas-CMD will not only respect his position, but also realize that the ruling party must transcend personality politics and join him in standing with the Filipino people," Venida said.

Guingona resigned in July 2002 as foreign secretary over major policy differences with President Macapagal-Arroyo, particularly on the US military

GUINGONA/ A4

## GMA allies bat for transitional president

By Carlito Pablo

THREE of the administration's top movers and shakers are laying the groundwork for the election in 2004 of a "transitional president" to serve only up to 2007.

According to Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., Norberto Gonzales and Jose Ma. Rufino, President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser for special concerns and political liaison officer, respectively, this setup will pave the way for a parliamentary form and federal system of government.

"That is exactly our proposal," said De Venecia, who co-chairs the ruling Lakas with Ms Macapagal. "We have proposed that the next president to be elected will be a transitional president and with only a three-year term."

The supposed key to this plan is the amendment of the Constitution.

"If we [Congress sitting as a constituent assembly] are able to approve this in October-November, we will have a plebiscite 60 days later in February. So it means that by May of next year, we will still have elections for president," De Venecia said.

Gonzales said that under this setup, the president, vice president and 12 senators to be elected in 2004 would have to resign by 2007.

"This will be provided for in the transitory

GMA/ A4

### PAGCOR'S PROBLEM

## Cash cow mismanaged, say managers

By John Nery

*(First of two parts)*

An I-TEAM Report

THE COUNTRY'S most profitable company is running short of cash.

Interviews with highly placed sources, key documents and a financial analysis provided by a company executive indicate that the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., which reported a net income of P11.03 billion for 2002, is actually in serious financial difficulty. Since January 2001, the state gaming firm has been run by Efraim Genuino and other officers closely identified—through either the Rotary Club of Makati or the Bigkis Pinoy party-list group—with First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo. *(See sidebar on how this series was sourced, on Page A9).*

"Pagcor is very highly illiquid owing mainly to negative operating cash flows," the executive said, on condition of anonymity.

In layman's terms, more money has come out of Pagcor than gone in. To finance the difference, Pagcor has resorted to borrowing over a billion pesos from government banks.

CASH/ A9

EFRAIM C. GENUINO: Chair/CEO, Pagcor: Trying to bust syndicates

## No trouble at all, says Pagcor chief

By John Nery

PAGCOR chair Efraim Genuino has emphatically denied that the government gaming firm he heads is in financial difficulty. "No, we are not," he said.

He said the P1.3 billion loan secured by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.—not P1.4 billion—was a management decision to pay off a major obligation and to fund "expansion (projects) and equipment upgrade."

Pagcor deputy chief of staff Rene Figueroa also said part of the money went to finance "leasehold improvements" in Pagcor's Tagaytay and Angeles casinos.

Genuino said Pagcor owed Waterfront Philippines, which operates two hotels in Cebu and Mactan cities hosting Pagcor casinos, some P539 million.

He also said the loans, which were secured from the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Philippine National Bank, paid for capital expenditures—not operating expenses as some Pagcor insiders have alleged. He said there was a need to purchase or rehabilitate "more than 1,000 machines," at a cost of $8,000 to $10,000 per unit. The total exposure was half a billion pesos, more or less.

Genuino also debunked claims, again raised by Pagcor insiders, that the loan was secured to help the company fund the remittances that by law go to various government agencies, including the President's Social Fund. "Not true, *kasi* automatic 'yan (the remittances are deducted automatically)," he said.

The Pagcor chair, appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo the same month she assumed office,

NO TROUBLE/ A9

## GMA 7 stops Probe Team report, seeks proof

By Dona Pazzibugan

TELEVISION network GMA 7 stopped the airing Tuesday night of a "lifestyle check" report on Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) chief Efraim Genuino.

Minutes before the 11:30 p.m. airtime of the weekly investigative news program, The Probe Team, network officials pulled out the entire episode.

In a statement issued last night, GMA 7 vice president for news and public affairs Marissa Flores said the "management decided not to air the episode because the story ... had incomplete documents."

A replay of Probe Team's mountain-climbing feature two years ago was aired instead.

"What do you call not being allowed to air? We call it censorship. They call it 'not allowed to air.' I don't know how you'll call it," said Cheche Lazaro, executive producer of the multi-awarded program.

The report delved into the

GMA 7/ A9

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Northern Luzon including Aurora will have rains with occasional gusty winds and the coastal waters will be moderate to rough. The rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers becoming more frequent over the western section.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/18/03

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Cloudy with Rains | Iloilo/Bacolod | Cloudy with Rains |
| Baguio | Rains | Roxas | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tuguegarao | Occasional Rains | Cebu | Cloudy with Rains |
| Laoag | Occasional Rains | Tacloban | Cloudy with Rains |
| Clark Zone | Cloudy with Rains | Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tagaytay | Cloudy with Rains | Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains |
| Calapan | Cloudy with Rains | Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

# Ping off the hook, for now

## No ethics probe yet vs Lacson – Drilon

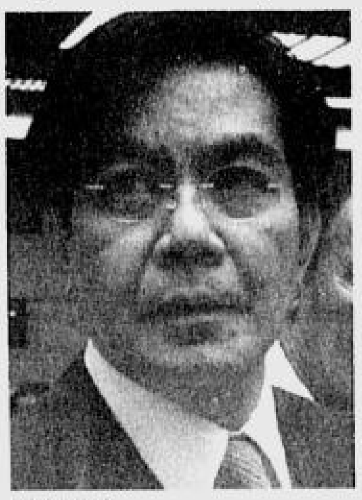
By Michael Lim Ubac

**OPPOSITION Sen. Panfilo Lacson is off the hook for now.**

**Senate President Franklin Drilon said yesterday that the Senate ethics committee cannot investigate the ethics complaint against Lacson until after a joint investigation into the Jose Pidal controversy is completed.**

"The ongoing investigation will take precedence" over the ethics inquiry, Drilon said.

At a press conference, Drilon explained that the complaint by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes as well as those to be filed by First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo against Lacson involved a "prejudicial question."


LACSON

He defined prejudicial question as "one where the resolution in one case is necessary in order to resolve the other case."

Drilon said the findings of the joint investigation of the blue ribbon, constitutional amendments and banking committees "would be a prejudicial issue that will determine the outcome of the ethics complaint."

### 'No leg to stand on'

"Because if the blue ribbon committee finds sufficient basis and finds enough evidence to sustain the allegations of Senator Lacson in a privilege speech, then the ethics case will have no leg to stand on," he said.

Drilon clarified however that he did not want to preempt the ethics committee chaired by Sen. Francis Pangilinan.

He said it would be up to the ethics committee to impose disciplinary action on Lacson should he fail to substantiate his money-laundering accusations against the President's husband.

PCSO chair Ma. Livia "Honey Girl" de Leon filed a complaint against Lacson with the ethics committee last week "for irresponsible, malicious, damaging and unfounded accusations tending to destroy the integrity and reputation of the PCSO."

De Leon asked that Lacson should be disciplined by the Senate for alleged "misconduct and irresponsible misrepresentation of facts."

During his two-part exposé against Mike Arroyo, Lacson produced a photocopy of a purported cancelled LandBank check No. 0061283 worth P1.3 million, issued on Feb. 28, 2003 by the PCSO.

Lacson claimed that the check had ended up in an account of Jose Pidal which he alleged was an alias used by Mike Arroyo to hide allegedly laundered money.

De Leon said Lacson's claim was "completely false and a blatant lie."

She said the check that Lacson was referring had been issued to Fortunato G. Tiratira and that it was only worth P23,000.

It was issued on Feb. 26, 2003 "representing payment for a five-digit winning prize in a 6/45 lotto game and which was subsequently encashed by Mr. Tiratira himself ... on the same date."

On Saturday, a lawyer of Mike Arroyo said they were considering filing a complaint for disciplinary action against Lacson for "not only maligning the First Gentleman but also undermining the Macapagal administration itself."

**SEPARATE LIVES**
As separated Siamese twins Rachel and Lea curiously look on, their parents Marieta and Andy Awel give their respects to President Macapagal-Arroyo during yesterday's courtesy call at Malacañang. The Kalinga Siamese twins, conjoined in the chest and abdomen, were separated last June by surgeons in Taipei with financial backing from a Buddhist charitable foundation. EDWIN BACASMAS

# Iggy threatens to hale senator, banks to court

By Margaux Ortiz

THE LAWYER of Ignacio Arroyo yesterday threatened to hale to court opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson and banks releasing bank statements on the "Jose Pidal" accounts in violation of the bank secrecy law.

Lawyer Antonio Zulueta said that any illegally obtained proof could be used in court against Lacson, who is presently abroad to gather more evidence against First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

According to Zulueta, bank statements which Lacson has offered as evidence to bolster his case against the First Gentleman are inadmissible in court because these were illegally acquired.

In a press conference at the LTA building in Makati City, Zulueta said that bank statements are covered by the bank secrecy law and thus, cannot just be released without the owner's consent.

"We have not authorized any release (of bank statements)," Zulueta stressed, warning that banks releasing such statements could also be held liable.

Zulueta said they are now studying the appropriate charges which could be filed against "those who were parties to illegal activities."

### No proof

With photocopied bank statements as evidence, Lacson had accused the First Gentleman of alleged laundering of unspent campaign funds and depositing these in secret bank accounts under the name Jose Pidal. Ignacio later claimed ownership of the Jose Pidal accounts but invoked the right to privacy during the Senate hearings.

In a statement, Zulueta yesterday also welcomed the Senate's deferral of its decision on the issue of right to privacy.

"They merely affirm our position that Senator Lacson, until this date, has failed to present proof of his allegations," Zulueta said.

He also stressed that public interest was not involved in the Jose Pidal issue since his client Ignacio is a private citizen who is engaged in private business.

"He opened his private bank accounts using private, not public funds," Zulueta said.

Zulueta added that his client did not violate the Anti-Money Laundering Law because the bank accounts were opened and closed prior to the law's effectivity.

He said they are prepared to present the issue before the Supreme Court.

In a related development, the lawyer of the First Gentleman described as a desperate move the accusation of Lacson's camp that seven major banks are engaged in a cover-up of the Pidal accounts.

### Presumptuous

In a statement, lawyer Jesus Santos said that Lacson's spokesperson Angelito Banayo was being presumptuous when he accused one foreign and seven local banks of cover-up.

The banks have denied the existence of the Pidal accounts.

"Now that they [Lacson's camp] have failed to make their malicious allegations against the Arroyos stick, Mr. Banayo is showing their desperation by trying to besmirch our commercial banks," Santos said.

# Gloria grins and bears it

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo may not want to be the butt of jokes but this does not mean she'd pull the plug on gag shows lampooning her on television.

In a briefing, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said that while the President appreciated the gesture from an opposition senator to clamp down on the gag shows, she has no plans to direct the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) to stop these TV programs.

Bunye said he got this proposal from a text message from Sen. Aquilino Pimental who urged the MTRCB to crack down on shows that are unjustly lampooning the President.

"This might not be taken kindly by the media itself. Any action by MTRCB to even perhaps caution the TV station might be interpreted as a restriction of freedom of expression," Bunye said.

Bunye revealed that the President sometimes catches a few portions of the gag shows that lampoon her such as GMA 7's Bubble Gang, ABS-CBN 2's OK Fine Whatever, and ABC 5's Ispup.

The President has long been lampooned on TV shows but Pimental apparently was appalled by the brazenness of recent episodes where they tackled the scandal involving First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Bunye said that the President was "very game" with the caricature on her person as seen from her sporting conduct during the National Press Club's Gridiron, an annual tradition where presidents endure a satirical roasting from journalists. "She could take as well as she could dish out."

However, in her Gridiron speech, the President admitted that "the *mataray* usually don't like to be made fun of." *Gil Cabacungan*

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# Gov't to spend more to generate more jobs

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MACAPAGAL

THE GOVERNMENT plans to boost its spending in the countryside for the rest of the year to generate employment opportunities for the swelling ranks of jobless Filipinos estimated at 4.35 million as of July.

In a statement, President Macapagal-Arroyo expressed confidence that more jobs would be created in the agriculture sector in the coming months as the El Niño has abated.

But Ms Macapagal warned that "destabilization and excessive politicking" could drive away potential investments that could generate more jobs for Filipinos.

"The incessant atmosphere of controversy and putting each other down must give way to focus and a sense of national purpose to rev up the economy and drive down crime and terrorism," the President said

"We are also determined to strike up more investments in the industrial and services sectors as economic activities pick up towards year-end," Ms Macapagal said.

The government said Tuesday the jobless rate rose to 12.7 percent in July from 12.2 percent at the end of April and from 11.2 percent a year earlier.

## Pushed higher

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the unemployment rate was pushed higher by the loss of 760,000 jobs in agriculture, which employs about a third of the country's labor force.

Neri said the jobless rate spike was "weather-related, rather than a reflection of labor market fundamentals." This was compensated slightly by increases in employment in industry and services, he said.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo said that starting August this year, the government has increased its spending in the rural sector to reverse the worsening unemployment rate in the sector, arising from the El Niño and typhoons that hit the country a few months ago.

Saludo said the government was banking on the P24 billion that it had not spent in the first seven months this year to keep the deficit level below target.

The deficit was pegged at P95.4 billion in the first seven months this year, significantly below the P119 billion target for the period, but Saludo expects the budgetary shortfall to start ballooning in August as more funds are poured into rural areas to pay off contractors and laborers working in state infrastructure projects.

The government's pump-priming activity would also benefit the bureaucracy which was among those worst hit by the surge in the unemployment rate. Some 84,000 public servants lost their jobs in July.

## 'Record high'

National Economic and Development Authority assistant planning director Escolastica Cororaton admitted that July's unemployment rate was a "record high" for the period and that it was a "danger signal" for the economy.

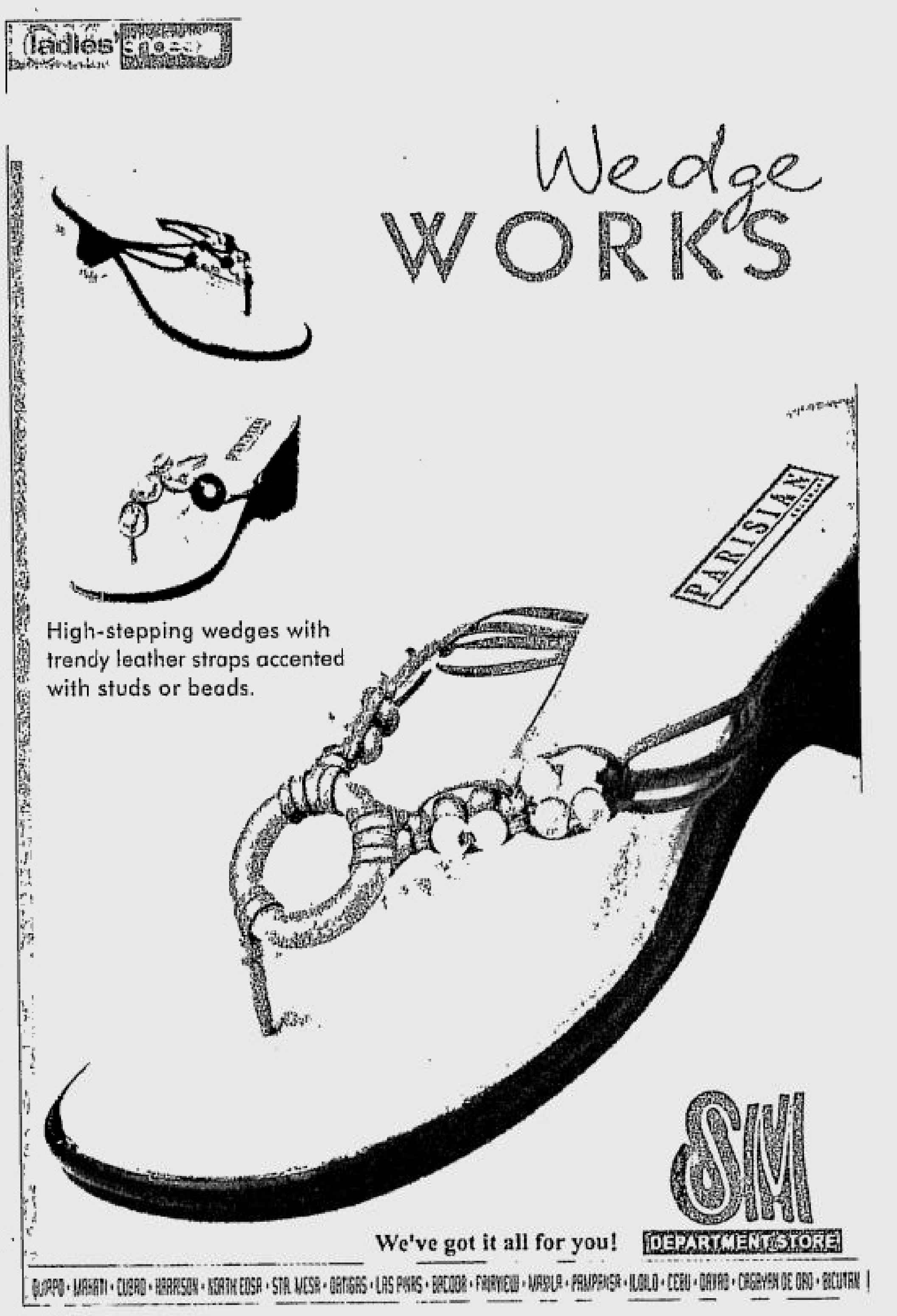
"It is a danger sign when there are more than 4 million out of work. It's something that the government should look into," Cororaton said in a briefing in Malacañang.

The unemployment rate usually peaks in March and April each year as new graduates join the ranks of those seeking jobs.

Cororaton, however, noted that the higher jobless rate was cushioned by the industry and service sectors which posted growth of 5.5 percent and 1.8 percent respectively after seven straight quarters of massive layoffs.

Industry generated 259,000 jobs or a 5.5 percent increase, while services generated 254,000 jobs or a 1.8 percent growth.

Officials said many of these new jobs in industry and services were more long-term and would not be bound by the effects of weather or planting seasons as in the agricultural sector. *With AFP report*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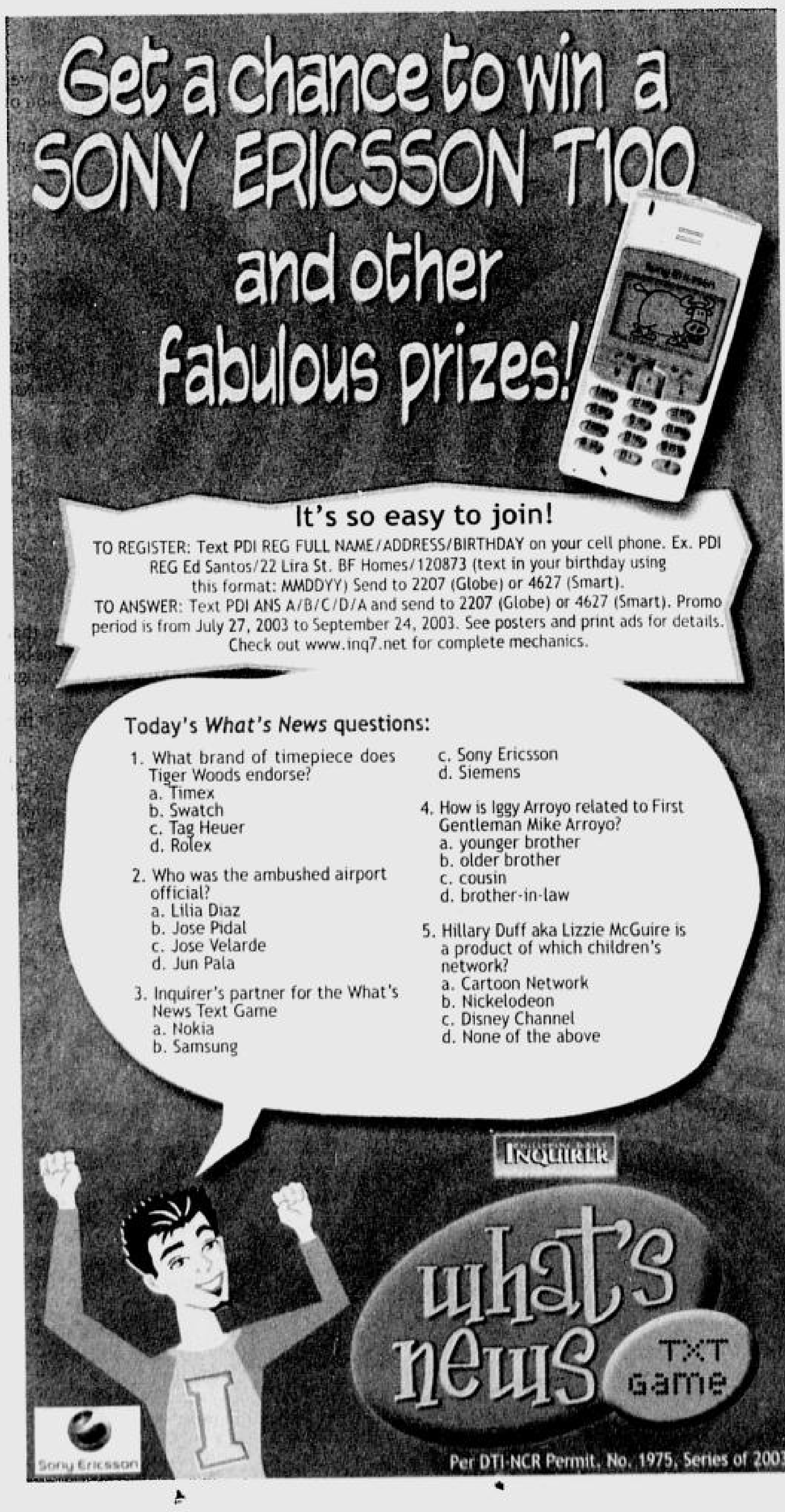
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Today's *What's News* questions:

1. What brand of timepiece does Tiger Woods endorse?
   a. Timex
   b. Swatch
   c. Tag Heuer
   d. Rolex
2. Who was the ambushed airport official?
   a. Lilia Diaz
   b. Jose Pidal
   c. Jose Velarde
   d. Jun Pala
3. Inquirer's partner for the What's News Text Game
   a. Nokia
   b. Samsung
   c. Sony Ericsson
   d. Siemens
4. How is Iggy Arroyo related to First Gentleman Mike Arroyo?
   a. younger brother
   b. older brother
   c. cousin
   d. brother-in-law
5. Hillary Duff aka Lizzie McGuire is a product of which children's network?
   a. Cartoon Network
   b. Nickelodeon
   c. Disney Channel
   d. None of the above

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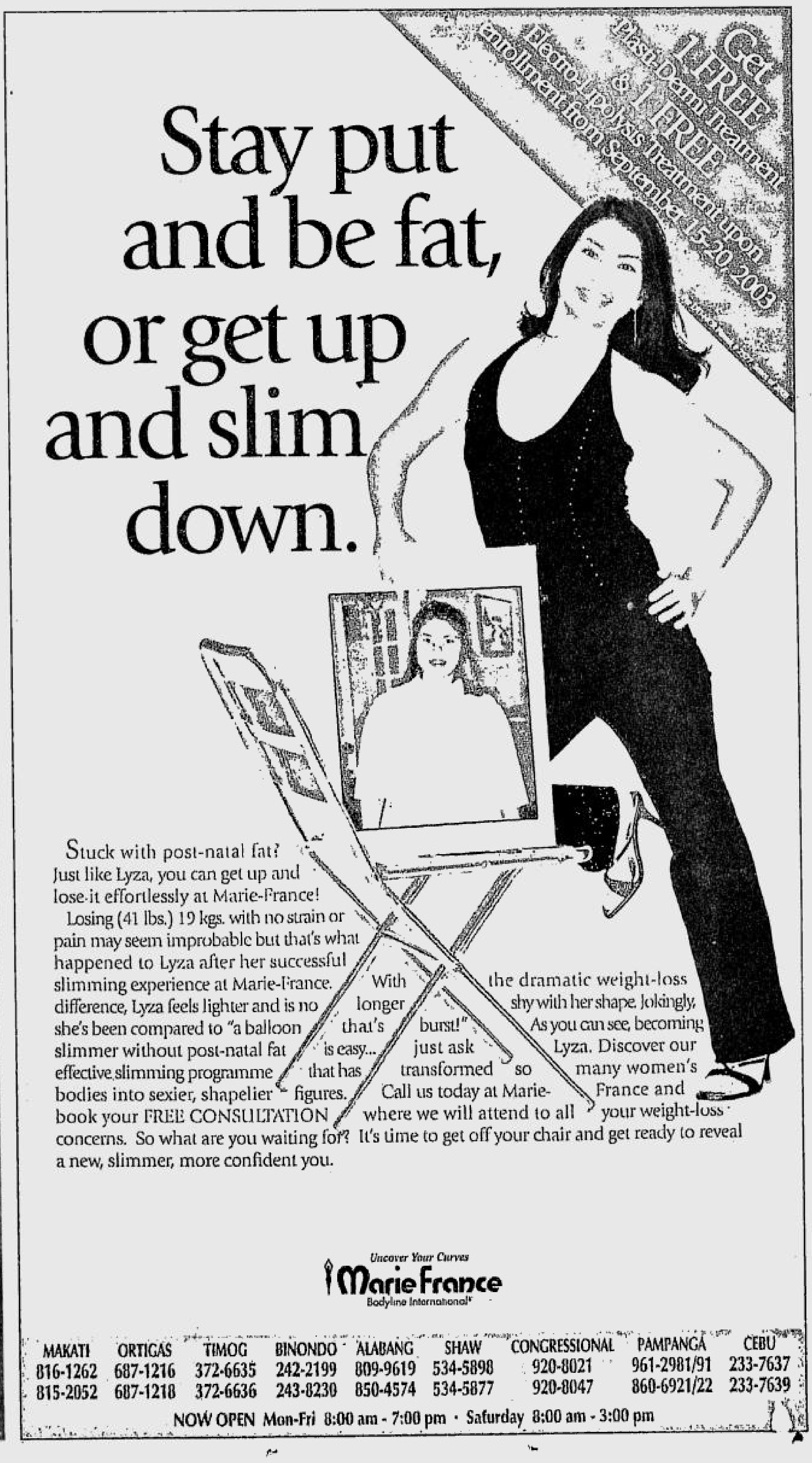
Sony Ericsson

Per DTI-NCR Permit, No. 1975, Series of 2003.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# GMA allies bat for transitional president

From page A1

provisions of the new Constitution," he said in a phone interview. "By 2007, we'll have a fully working parliamentary system."

Gonzales said that while the proposal to amend the Constitution had been buried in the current political mudslinging, "a grass-roots movement is emerging to tell politicians that everything is not OK and that there is a need for meaningful change."

"Charter reforms will be the linchpin for such reforms," he said.

He also said this grass-roots movement was composed of people's organizations, civic groups and Church-led associations.

In another phone interview, Rufino said the spate of political mudslinging had rekindled interest among the public for constitutional amendments.

## February or May plebiscite

"From a low level of acceptance for charter reforms, we are now seeing a high of 80-percent acceptance from the public. There is now a wide sentiment for political reforms," he said.

De Venecia said that if the new Constitution would not be approved by February, the plebiscite would be held in May.

"The presidential election, as we know it, will proceed as scheduled, including elections for senators and congressmen," he said. "Our suggestion, however, is that by 2007 when their term expires, there will be a full shift to the parliamentary system."

Gonzales aired the idea of a "transition president" a few months ago. It drew no comment from Malacañang.

Rufino said there had been initial talks in Lakas about this scenario but it had not been actually presented to Ms Macapagal.

"That could be part of our formal agenda during our national directorate meeting," he said, referring to the Lakas leaders' convention set on Oct. 7.

## Overwhelming choice

De Venecia announced Tuesday that on Oct. 7, Lakas would likely endorse the President as its standard-bearer in 2004 because she was the "overwhelming" choice of party members.

But Malacañang is taking a wait-and-see attitude.

"Let's see what the actual discussions will be during the meeting," Ignacio Bunye, the President's spokesperson, said yesterday.

He reiterated the Palace line that Ms Macapagal could not be distracted by politics in pursuing her programs, and said she had no reaction to De Venecia's announcement.

Bunye said it was not certain if the President would be able to make it to the Lakas leaders' meeting on Oct. 7. She is scheduled to attend an Asean meeting in Bali around that time, he said.

Rufino, also national executive director of Lakas, said party members were waiting for the President to decide whether she should run.

He said he had received endorsements from various political leaders and sectors and would present these at the Lakas leaders' meeting.

Bunye denied that the supposed party endorsement of Ms Macapagal was being timed for the Oct. 18 state visit of US President George W. Bush.

"These two events are unrelated," he said.

## 'Tactical triumph'

But administration congressmen believe that Bush's eight-hour visit would have a positive effect on the President's approval rating and could even improve her chances in 2004 if she decides to run.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez said the visit would be a "tactical triumph" for the administration.

"It is a rare event for a US president to come and visit a small country like ours," he said. "In this case, Bush is coming as a gesture of gratitude for the unqualified support that the Macapagal administration extended to the US in the US-Iraq war, a war against world terrorism."

Rep. Prospero Pichay of Surigao del Sur said: "I believe that there are a lot of pro-Americans in the country. Definitely, there will be an effect on the rating of the President as far as the Bush influence is concerned."

## Prop up GMA image

Rep. Kim Bernardo-Lokin of the Citizens Battle Against Corruption (Cibac) said the visit might be used by Malacañang's public relations managers to prop up the President's image.

"Bush's visit will definitely boost her chances in 2004. Already, people view it as an endorsement of the President, and many are expecting that it is the key to her changing her mind about not running again," Lokin said.

At the Senate, opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., said Bush's visit would serve as a "subliminal message" to the public that the US president recognized the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration.

Pimentel said the visit would also be good for Bush because he was "looking for some positive results of his worldwide war against terrorism."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, also of the opposition, said Ms Macapagal's eagerness to welcome Bush might have to do with her supposed plans for 2004.

## 'Kiss of death'

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said that while Ms Macapagal became an ally of Bush in the war against Iraq, the same issue will cause the "downfall" of both leaders.

Deputy Minority Leader Rolex Suplico said a possible endorsement of Ms Macapagal by Bush would be "a kiss of death for her."

"It will have a negative effect since Bush himself is going down in the US," Suplico said.

Rep. Imee Marcos said that with the anti-US sentiments running high and the peace and order situation deteriorating, Ms Macapagal was actually risking Philippine stability for the sake of "an eight-hour political stunt."

She warned that other groups might seek to take advantage of such a conflict to try to cause bigger security problems.

In Iloilo City, the party-list group Anak ng Bayan said the visit virtually clinched Bush's endorsement of Ms Macapagal.

Anak ng Bayan president Apolinario Alvarez said in a press conference Tuesday that Ms Macapagal had proven to be the "perfect President" for US interests.

"She is the most docile President who always kowtows to US interests. What more can Bush want?" Alvarez said. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christine Avendaño in Manila; Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

# Guingona hits 'black prop' campaign against him

From page A1

presence in the country.

The President's political liaison officer, Secretary Jose Maria Rufino, earlier called for party sanctions against Guingona and other party members for fanning the money laundering controversy involving First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

## Fueling Mike A controversy

Rufino, also the national executive director of Lakas, said the party should impose sanctions on Guingona for saying on national television that unless the controversy involving the First Gentleman was settled, it could result in something "drastic" in one or two months.

Rufino said Guingona should resign from the party if he couldn't be a team player. He earlier scored Guingona for going against the party's proposal to convene a constituent assembly to approve changes in the Constitution.

Rufino said sanctions on Guingona should be taken up at a meeting of the party leadership this month or the next.

Guingona said he would attend the Lakas-CMD national directorate meeting on Oct. 7 that Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., party national chair, had called.

## Misunderstood

Guingona said his party mates must have misunderstood his comments on a recent television program when he said that events may "unravel" in the next few months unless government addressed the grievances of the people.

He noted that even former Armed Forces chief of staff Roy Cimatu made the same assessment when he told the Feliciano Commission that another coup attempt might occur unless the government addressed the grievances raised by the Oakwood mutineers.

On his stand on the visit of US President Gorge W. Bush to the country on Oct. 18, Guingona denied reports that he would participate in demonstrations against the state visit.

"I wish to state that I am part of the government that invited President Bush. Therefore, when you invite a visitor, you do not treat him by protesting his visit," he told reporters.

Guingona said some leaders of certain non-government organizations (NGOs) must have misunderstood his statements when they discussed the forthcoming Bush visit.

Without naming names, Guingona was apparently referring to Fr. Joe Dizon, leader of the religious advocacy group Kairos, who earlier told the INQUIRER that Guingona had "confirmed" his participation in a "vigil" on the eve of Bush's arrival to be mounted by the reactivated Stand For Peace (SFP) coalition.

Earlier, the Vice President, through his spokesperson, made it clear that he had consistently advocated peace and unity, which was why he attended the prayer rally last week at the Quirino Grandstand along with Ms Macapagal and the Metro Manila mayors.

# MANIFESTO OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY ON THE BILLS ESTABLISHING A NEW LABOR CODE

We, the members of the business community representing both the local and foreign investors, express our utmost concern on the overall impact on business and the economy of the three pending bills in Congress establishing a new Labor Code, namely: Senate Bill No. 2570, House Bill No. 5996 and House Bill No. 6031.

We agree with Congress on the need to revise the Labor Code, as many of its concepts and features which were orthodoxy at the time of its promulgation three decades ago before the advent of rapid globalization, have now become archaic, anachronistic and rigid. It has thus become imperative to attune the Labor Code to the dynamics of globalization and trade liberalization by providing employers with the flexibility to survive and compete in the global market with due regard to the promotion of decent work within the context of the Philippine labor market.

We note that Senate Bill No. 2570 and House Bill No. 6031 are identical in contents. We understand that both bills were adopted from the draft prepared by the Congressional Oversight Committee on Labor and Employment (COCLE), which was established by joint resolution of Congress to finalize the draft of the new Labor Code. For brevity, we shall henceforth refer to Senate Bill No. 2570 and House Bill No. 6031 as the COCLE versions.

On the other hand, we find House Bill No.5996 which was filed by the Bayan Muna representatives a major deviation from the COCLE versions. Its most distinguishing features reflect a bias that is highly anti-capitalist, anti-market and anti-globalization.

We note two innovative features of the COCLE versions, which are absent from the Bayan Muna version.

One is the reinstatement of apprenticeship as a modality of training from its emasculated version in the present Labor Code which treats of apprenticeship as a form of employment that is limited to employers in highly technical industries and for a period of six months. True apprenticeship as introduced by the COCLE versions essentially consists of two components: on-the-job training supplemented by theoretical instructions. Apprenticeship as a training modality is the best and least expensive entry point for employers to train workers needed by industry.

The other innovative feature of the COCLE versions is the transformation of the productivity gain-sharing program found in the inutile Productivity Incentives Act of 1990 into a flexible mechanism complete with incentives where both business establishments and their unions or workers can initiate productivity improvement and gain-sharing programs tailored to their own needs and specific situations.

We believe that this new feature which can still stand a number of improvements will be a shot in the arm for Philippine productivity which is now one of the lowest in the region.

Unfortunately, these innovations are offset by a number of negative features in the COCLE versions which for space limitations will not be taken up here but ventilated in the Congressional deliberations on these bills.

Suffice it to single out as an outstandingly bad feature the requirement that companies in the outsourcing supply chain shall not only be 100% Filipino owned but must secure license to do business from the Department of Labor and Employment. Such anti-market regulation would be a death blow to the new forms of business process outsourcing, particularly call centers, where thousands upon thousands of potential new ICT-based jobs will go down the drain and much needed foreign investments in this sunrise industry will avoid the country like the plague.

On the other hand, we hardly find any saving feature in the Bayan Muna version. Limitation of space allows us only to cite a few of its most egregious features:

1. Imposition of harsh and oppressive penalties for every violation by the employer: fine of from P50,000.00 to P100,000.00 and/or imprisonment of from three to ten years. The Bayan Muna version ignores the fact that the enterprises most likely to be penalized are the micro and small establishments employing less than 20 workers which constitute 96% of total establishments in the formal sector. One cannot imagine the havoc that it would bring if the owners of such establishments numbering nearly 800,000 and employing nearly 2,700,000 workers would be jailed for ten years for every infraction of the Bayan Muna version.

2. Rejection as basic policy the preferential use of voluntary modes of settling disputes, such as conciliation and voluntary arbitration; in lieu thereof, it calls for immediate action in the form of strike;

3. Dispensing with the requirement and prohibition that no unions may go on strike without due notice and strike vote; this paves the way for anarchy in industrial relations, consequent investment flight and loss of jobs;

4. Allowing all aliens to participate in the activities of labor unions, associations, organizations and allied institutions. This would open the floodgate to terrorists and other extremist elements to infiltrate the labor movement; and

5. Requiring the employer in dismissal cases to serve advance written notice to the employee and to DOLE of not less than six months before the intended date of separation provided the termination is recognized as valid by the worker and he is paid 3 months for every year of service.

In short, the Bayan Muna version is anti-investment, anti-employment and anti-labor.

We therefore appeal to the statesmanship of Congress to include within the framework of the new Labor Code the following considerations with the end in view of attracting investments, expanding business and generating more employment:

1. Promote and enhance productivity, which is one of the lowest in the region, as sine-quo-non for achieving competitiveness, with due recognition to the growth range of methods to enhance it and the various norms of sharing each result;

2. Intensify technology and knowledge-based skills development through different modalities of training with multi-sectoral and tripartite participation and involvement;

3. Provide the highest priority for employment and job creation over and above the fixation on guaranteed job security. The promotion of employment should be induced through an investment friendly regulatory framework which includes special concern for the promotion and strengthening of micro, small and medium enterprises including but not limited to such modality as flexible outsourcing;

4. Promote industrial peace through responsible trade unionism, tripartism and social dialogue

5. Promote decent work

**Signed this 8th day of September, 2003, in the City of Makati.**

Donald Dee
*President*
**Employers Confederation of the Philippines**

Aniano Bagabaldo
*Executive Vice President*
**Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc.**

Robin Sy
*President*
**Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc.**

Sergio Ortiz Luis, Jr.
*President*
**Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

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ADVT.

# AFP doubts Al-Ghozi will be in custody for Bush visit

**By Norman Bordadora**

THE ARMED Forces remains hopeful that Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi would be arrested in time for the eight-hour state visit of US President George W. Bush on Oct. 28 but the thick foliage in his hiding place would make his recapture less likely.

Armed Forces chief of staff General Narciso Abaya told reporters that military intelligence points to the area marking the boundary of Zamboanga City and Sibugay province (formerly Zamboanga Del Sur) as the most probable location of the Jemaah Islamiya suspect.

"We are always optimistic but that area is heavily forested," Abaya said referring to the difficulty of hunting down a suspect in the thick of the woods.

While the military has focused its pursuit of Al-Ghozi in the Zamboanga City-Sibugay border, it has yet to identify the personalities who could be coddling the Indonesian terrorist.

"Until now, we do not know who these people are. If we know his coddlers, we could have already arrested Al-Ghozi," Abaya said.

The US government praised the Philippine law enforcement agencies following Al-Ghozi's arrest but similarly expressed disappointment when the prime suspect in the Rizal Day bombing escaped from his Camp Crame cell.

The US and Indonesia believe Al-Ghozi is a threat not only to the southeast Asian region but to the entire world community.

Al-Ghozi is said to be an associate of captured Indonesian terrorist leader Hambali of the notorious Jemaah Islamiya.

The JI is said to be one of the allied terrorist groups of Osama Bin Laden's Al Qaeda terrorist network.

## Beta Sigmans bid farewell to Jesse James

UP BETA Sigma alumni and residents will hold formal last rites in memory of the fraternity's co-founder and first president Jesus R. Jayme, today, 6:30 p.m., at the University Hotel, UP Diliman, Q.C.

Other founders and contemporaries like Tomas Cosio, Melecio Arranz, Jr., Benedicto Arcinas, Gen. Guillermo Pecache, Florencio Campomanes, Sofronio San Juan, Alfredo Pio de Roda, Teodulo Topacio, Orlando Peña, Prospero Crescini, and Cris Icban, Jr. will lead condoling brothers from UP and other schools in the solemnities.

Jayme, popular as "Jesse James," bequeathed a culture of deserved excellence, seamless integrity, and virile tradition to the organization. To this day, every Beta Sigman shares his saga for equal rights and privileges in all matters pertaining to the brotherhood.

Alumni president Ramon J.P. Paje said he believes Jayme is best remembered for these words, "I am proud to be a Betan and, in my senior age, will hold this truth very close to my heart." Such thought rings true for many a brother, but it was Jesse James who said it first.

All Beta Sigmans, are expected to attend in formal barong and black pants to pay final respects to the fraternity's vibrant founder.

## Diokno; 86

AMADO Diokno Diokno Sr. of San Luis, Batangas died on Tuesday, Sept. 16. He was 86.

He is survived by children: Myrna, Carmelita, Romeo, Amado Jr. and Elizabeth, Ramon, Rafael, Narciso, Ma. Lourdes, Joseph, Ma. Teresa, Criselda, Chito and Kitina, Carlos and Linda; and grandchildren: Ramon and Ghie, Ramon Vincent, Ruth Agnes, Noemi and Vic, Noel Vincent, Noelle Victoria, Noel Victor, Noelle Veronica, Noelle Vernadette, Ma. Christina, Michael William, Amado III, Anne Lorraine, Chuchi, Collyn, Elijah, Julian, Patty, Kristine, Mon-Mon, Richard, Rency and Daisy, Karren and Dennis, Genevieve, Diana, Camille, Kristian, Kat Kat, Kyla and Ira.

His remains lie at Nacional Funeral Homes on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be held on Sunday, Sept. 21 at Paraiso Memorial Park on San Mateo, Rizal.

# Bush urged to bring Balangiga bells to RP

UNITED States President George Bush would be making a memorable event of his eight-hour visit here if he could effect the return of the historic "Balangiga Bells" which were taken from Samar as war booty by US soldiers during the Philippine-American war more than a century ago.

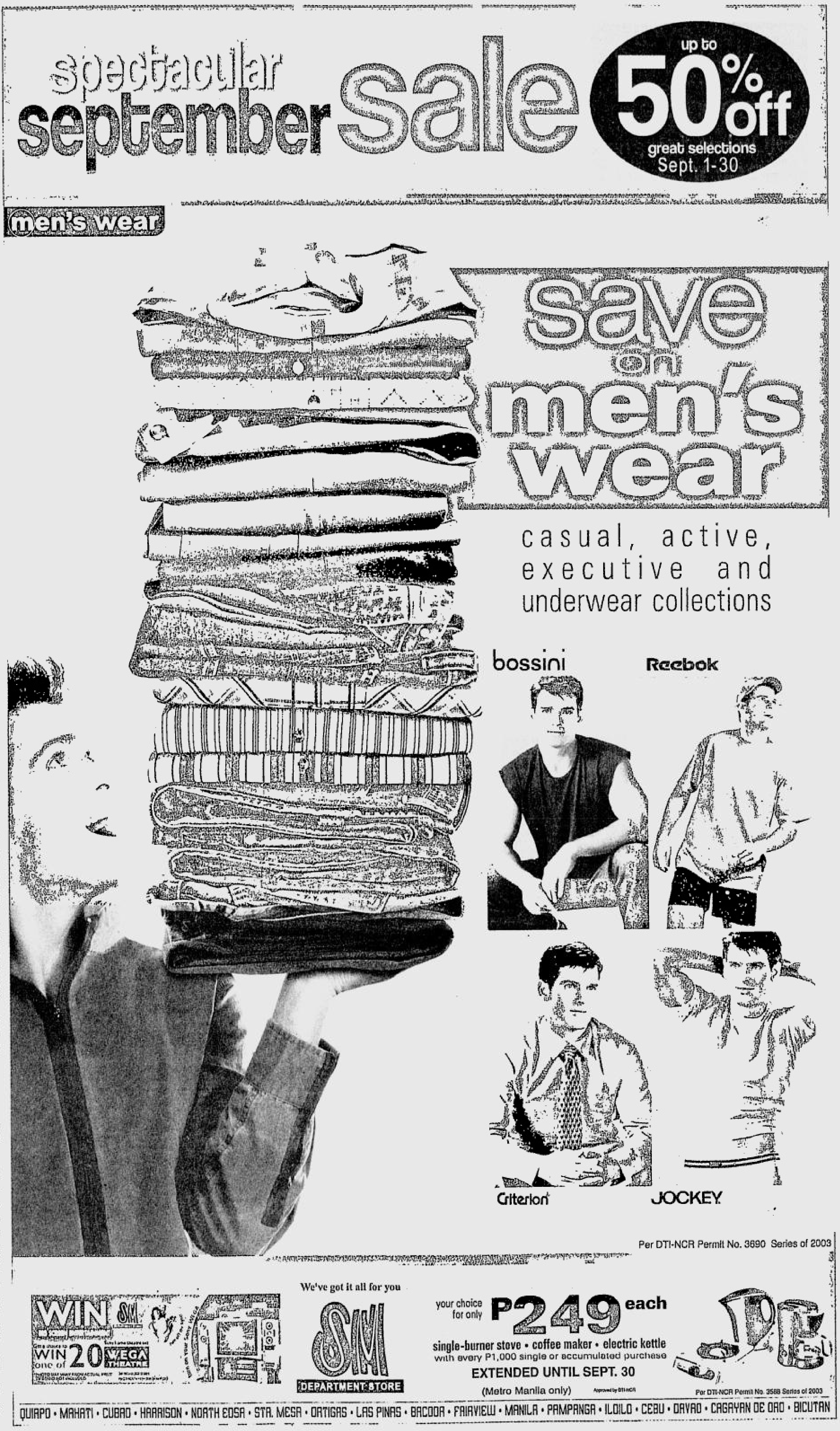
Sen. Loren Legarda made this suggestion as she called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to personally make the request during the visit to Manila next month of the US President.

"The bells symbolize the sovereignty and aspirations of the Filipino nation," said Legarda, adding that the return of the bells would be a "fitting recognition" by the US of its friendship with the Philippines.

The bronze church bells, which are now on the grounds of the Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming, were seized and shipped out of the country following a series of bloody encounters between US and Filipino troops in Balangiga, Samar in 1901.

The Philippines has long been seeking the bells' return, and they remain a touchy diplomatic issue between the two nations that otherwise are friends.

*Michael Lim Ubac*



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# Rich countries blamed for Cancun collapse

OFFICIALS yesterday blamed the collapse of global trade talks in Cancun, Mexico, on the refusal of rich countries to listen to the concerns of the poor.

"It was like (the voices of poor countries were) entering one ear and going out the other... that's what really infuriated me," Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo told dzRH radio.

"The meeting in Cancun was a debacle for the whole world," Foreign Secretary Blas Ople wrote, in his column in the Manila Bulletin newspaper, blaming the impasse on the selfishness of rich countries.

Ople said the West must yield to poorer nations' demands to remove agricultural subsidies. The US and Europe must "use a little more restraint in marrying their political clout to their trade objectives," he said.

US and European farmers receive between $50,000 to $100,000 a year in subsidies, compared to $13 to $20 a year per Filipino farmer, Lorenzo said.

Lorenzo, who along with Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II led the Philippine delegation at the World Trade Organization meeting in Cancun, accused developed countries of temporarily exporting cheap products to poor countries just to gain a foothold in their market.

"They will say that's good for your consumers... but that's only temporary. Once they enter the market, they will raise prices," he added.

Lorenzo said rich countries must recognize that developing nations are their future markets and that it would therefore be beneficial to help their domestic economies.

"But instead they make it difficult for our products to enter their markets," he said.

Roxas accused European countries, Japan, South Korea and other rich economies of trying to introduce new and contentious areas for WTO negotiations that do not fall within the jurisdiction of the trade body.

These include setting international rules on investment by multinational companies, competition policy, improving transparency in government contracts and simplifying procedures surrounding cross-border transportation.

"These areas are not covered by trade. We will surrender our sovereign rights as a country to a multilateral organization (if we agree to these)," Roxas said.

Lorenzo foresees a resolution to the impasse. "This is like a chess game. There was a stalemate, but someone is bound to give in," he said. *AP*

## S & P CREDIT RATING

# *Outlook still positive for RP*

SINGAPORE—A terrorist bomb blast in Indonesia and a military mutiny in the Philippines have had little impact on overall credit ratings in the Asia-Pacific region due to strong fundamentals, Standard and Poor's said Wednesday.

S and P director for sovereign ratings Takahira Ogawa said confidence in both Indonesia and the Philippines have been shaken by the bomb attack on the JW Marriott Hotel last month and the mutiny in Manila in July.

"The direct impact of these events, however, on the sovereign ratings in the region were modest," Ogawa said in a preface to an S and P report card on sovereign ratings in the region released here.

"Generally, when there is an unexpected shock—political or economic—it is the strength of the macroeconomic fundamentals, fiscal flexibility and the ability to make effective and quick policy responses that influence the outcome from a credit perspective," he said.

Of the 18 countries and territories rated by the US-based credit risk evaluator, three—China, the Cook Islands and Thailand—have positive outlooks.

Hong Kong, India, Japan and Papua New Guinea—have negative outlooks while the remaining 11 have their outlooks listed as stable.

Australia, the Cook Islands and Indonesia have had their ratings upgraded while the Philippines has been downgraded due to fallout from the botched coup attempt by a group of junior military officers.

### 'Despite the shocks'

"Overall, despite the shocks and the emerging challenges in the Philippines and Hong Kong, the Asian credit story is looking more positive," Ogawa said.

"The unexpected strength of the US and Japanese economies will strengthen the recoveries in a number of export-led economies in the region, reinforcing the consolidation of the post currency crisis years."

Singapore maintained its premium triple A ratings and stable outlook.

This reflects expectations the country's "very strong credit standing should remain secure against almost all forseeable negative economic, geopolitical and security shocks over the medium term," S and P said.

S and P analyst Chew Ping noted a recovery across the region from the impact of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) earlier this year and acceleration in domestic demand in China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and Taiwan, as well as continued growth in Australia.

Good fiscal results and budgets have also been seen in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, Chew told a news briefing here, adding he was "cautiously optimistic" about Asia-Pacific banking systems.

But Paul Coughlin, managing director of Asia Pacific corporate and government ratings group, said some problems were notable.

"Political risk still muddies the waters in South Korea, the army mutiny in the Philippines highlights the widespread institutional weaknesses of the country and it remains to be seen if Hong Kong can stick to a coherent fiscal strategy under intense public scrutiny," Coughlin said.

"The apparent wavering over Hong Kong's fiscal policy is in stark contrast to the strength of Singapore's fiscal accounts and the decisive steps to lower labor costs... to remain competitive." *AFP*

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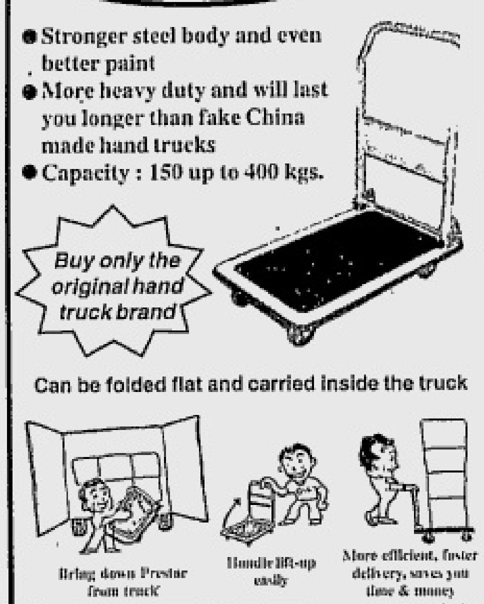
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## CHANGING OF THE GUARDS

# Politics to leave pulpit as Cardinal Sin retires

WITH an election just eight months away, expect far less politics from the pulpit now that the most outspoken priest in the Philippines is retiring.

Jaime Cardinal Sin is revered for marshalling million-strong protests that drove two Presidents from office, but as Archbishop of Manila, he also provoked controversy by charging into battle with successive governments on all manner of public policies.

The powerful Roman Catholic Church's fierce opposition to divorce, abortion and artificial birth control is undiminished as Bishop Gaudencio Rosales takes up his post as Sin's successor.

But the low-key Rosales, relatively unknown to many Filipinos as the Archbishop of Lipa, is seen shunning the politicking of Sin's three-decade era in favor of a more communal and personal sense of spirituality.

Fr. Fausto Gomez, the dean of sacred theology at the University of Sto. Tomas, said Sin was thrust into the limelight by the social and political environment of his time but that different circumstances required another approach.

"If some understand the role of Sin as a little political, it will be less than that," he told Reuters.

"The style of Archbishop Rosales will be different. He's a more quiet person," Gomez said.

### 'Human dignity'

"At the same time, I'm sure he will not forget the poor and he will not forget his commitment to human dignity, justice and life."

Rosales, four years younger than Sin at 71, has spoken out against illegal logging and the effects of globalization on the poor. He also chairs a Church committee assigned to draft a protocol on sexual misconduct by priests.

. But his approach is more about consensus than confrontation.

For critics of Sin's frequent interventions and backing of particular candidates, the change was long overdue.

Sin played a pivotal role in popular revolts that ousted the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and President Joseph Estrada in 2001. Along with Army generals, he then blessed Ms Macapagal's rise from vice president when Estrada quit the presidential palace.

But he could remain a thorn in the side of the government, leading opposition to family planning policies in a country that is struggling to cope with a rapidly growing population and against a tougher antiterror law in the 1990s.

"The Church has to participate in the lives of people," Sin told Reuters in an interview in 1999. "There is a separation of Church and State, but this separation does not mean isolation."

ROSALES

SIN

Rosales has yet to make any public comments since the Vatican announced his appointment as Sin's replacement. But commentators are already noting a change in the wind.

The spokesperson of the Pope's ambassador to the Philippines yesterday said Rosales' appointment fit the needs of his new post.

"He (Rosales) has been outstanding in the training of priests. As you know, right now, all over the world we're having a little trouble with priests," Fr. James Reuter told reporters in an interview.

Rosales is expected to solve the problem of recruitment of more young men into the priestly vocation as the archdiocese, now composed of Manila, Pasay City and Makati, faces a lack of priests.

### Broad background

The new Manila archbishop has a broad background in the recruitment and training of clergy. He is a graduate of the Jesuit-run San Jose Seminary in Manila and became an instructor and spiritual director of the St. Francis de Sales Seminary in Lipa City. He was also rector of the San Carlos Seminary in Makati from 1980 to 1982.

Rosales also served as national director of the Mission Society of the Philippines.

He chaired the Catholic Bishop's Conference of the Philippines' episcopal commission on seminaries for some 15 years while also serving as apostolic visitator of seminaries in the Philippines.

"It is recognized that one of Rosales' great talents is training for priesthood, one of the priorities of the CBCP," Reuter said.

Pope John Paul II appointed the new archbishop after consulting with the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Antonio Franco, the Pope's ambassador to the Philippines and other sources, he said.

"Archbishop Rosales is known to be pastoral, amiable and very low-key all the time. How any of those things moved the Pope, I do not know," Reuter added.

### Prelates

Meanwhile, two other prelates who were reportedly considered as a successor for Sin yesterday welcomed Rosales' appointment.

"We are all very happy for him. We know that he will do a lot of good for Manila," said Novaliches Bishop Teodoro Bacani who once served as auxiliary bishop of Manila under Sin.

Bacani recently figured in a sexual harassment case. The decision on his case is being awaited.

Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, who heads the diocese of Jaro, Iloilo, sees a continuity in the eras of Sin and Rosales.

He noted that Sin who served as Jaro Archbishop from October 1972 to March 1974 was "high in the profile of his statements, cosmopolitan in rank and relationship, endearing and endeared to his flock."

"Archbishop Rosales will discover his own inspired and enlightened way of shepherding his new flock," he said.

The influential El Shaddai Catholic charismatic group said Rosales' "timely appointment will end all unhealthy speculations" as to who would succeed Sin.

"As we have always done in the past, we will be around to extend our support to the archbishop and the Church's mission," El Shaddai spokesperson Mel Robles said. *Reuters with Jerome B. Aning and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau.*

# DFA making money out of dual citizenship law–Drilon

By Michael Lim Ubac

SENATE President Franklin Drilon yesterday accused the Department of Foreign Affairs of using the newly enacted Republic Act 9225—or the Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003, also known as the Dual Citizenship Law—to legitimize another "money-making scheme."

Drilon castigated the DFA for imposing a $25 fee on Filipinos who have become naturalized citizens of another country wanting to re-acquire Filipino citizenship.

"These ambassadors are putting a price tag on re-acquiring citizenship which is not correct," Drilon told a press briefing yesterday.

He said the $25 fee, imposed by a memorandum issued recently by the Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rafael Seguis, had to be paid before former Filipinos wanting to re-acquire citizenship are allowed to take their oath of allegiance at Philippine consulates abroad.

"I'm calling on Foreign Secretary Blas Ople to immediately recall this order [because] it is illegal," the Senate President said.

He said there was "absolutely no basis" for imposing the fee as it was not sanctioned by RA 9225, which took effect on Tuesday.

The new citizenship law allowed former Filipinos to automatically re-acquire or retain their Philippine citizenship upon taking an oath of allegiance, Drilon said.

He said the provision on rules and regulations for implementing the act was precisely deleted from the new law to make the process simple and convenient, and to prevent diplomats from imposing additional conditions or requirements such as the payment of fees.

### 'Total collections'

"Imagine, if there are one million Filipinos in the US who will benefit from the dual citizenship law, then the total collections in the US alone could reach P1.3 billion," said Drilon.

The amount would not go to the National Treasury but to the DFA kitty as fees of this kind go directly to the collecting agency or department, he said.

He suspects that the money collected would fund ambassadorial perks.

Drilon said the issue was brought to his attention by Rene Pascual, the president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines' California chapter, in a Sept. 16 letter.

Pascual said members of the Filipino-American community in San Francisco "who are preparing for the mass oath-taking" were surprised when informed of the memorandum by the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco.

Pascual said he expected a "big turnout of Fil-Ams coming from different places of the Bay Area as far as Sacramento, Fresno, Stockton, San Jose, etc." to participate in the mass oath-taking.

Drilon said the former Filipinos should just ignore the memorandum, saying they could take their oath before "any public official." *With a report from Gerald G. Lacuarta*

# Terror suspects' lawyer file raps vs cops

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE LAWYER of terror suspect Muklis Yunos and Abu Sayyaf leader Hector Janjalani yesterday filed criminal charges against 12 Quezon City policemen who barged into his house and allegedly planted evidence to make it appear that he was a drug pusher.

Lawyer Fidel A. Macayag charged the policemen before the justice department with robbery, illegal arrest, violation of domicile, arbitrary detention and planting of evidence.

Charged were police officers Zaldy Asama, Rino Riparip, Renaldo Labon, Mortega Etalito Arnold Penalosa and seven other John Does.

The policemen allegedly entered Macauyag's home at 1-D Don Damaso Townhomes, Don Damaso Street, Don Antonio Heights, Quezon City, without a search warrant and then allegedly stole jewelry, money and cellular phones before planting P1,000 worth of shabu, or methamphetamine hydrochloride.

Macauyag said he would also file administrative charges against the policemen who were assigned to the Fairview station of the Central Police District.

Two members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines filed the charges against the lawmen yesterday in behalf of Macauyag.

Macauyag, who was accompanied by more than 20 members of the Assalam Party, decried the raid and said that other Muslim businessmen were also being harassed by lawmen.

"Almost every day, a lot of Muslim businessmen are framed up and are now languishing in jail," he said.

Macauyag said he was lucky that he counted some high-ranking government officials among his clients. He said he and his wife Maysarah were released after some of these clients, including Lanao del Sur Rep. Jun Macarambon, appeared at the police station.

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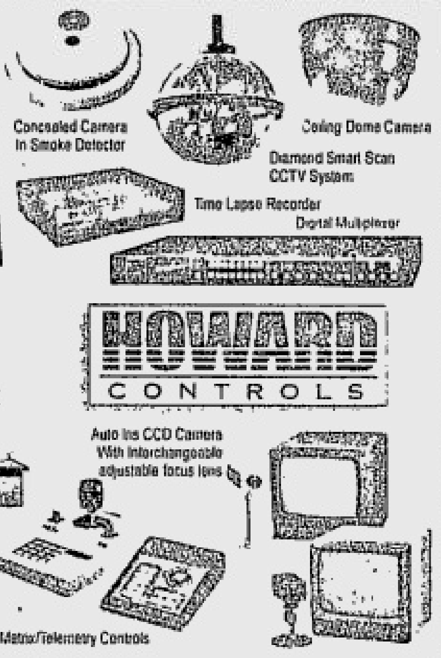
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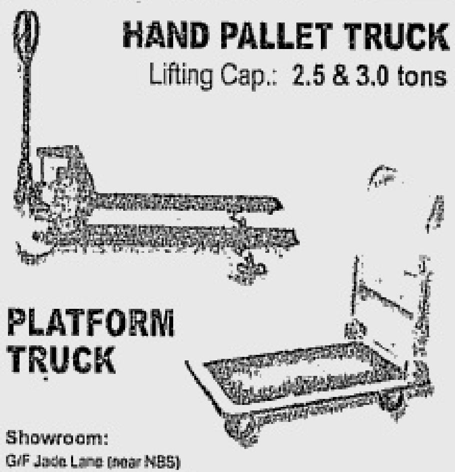

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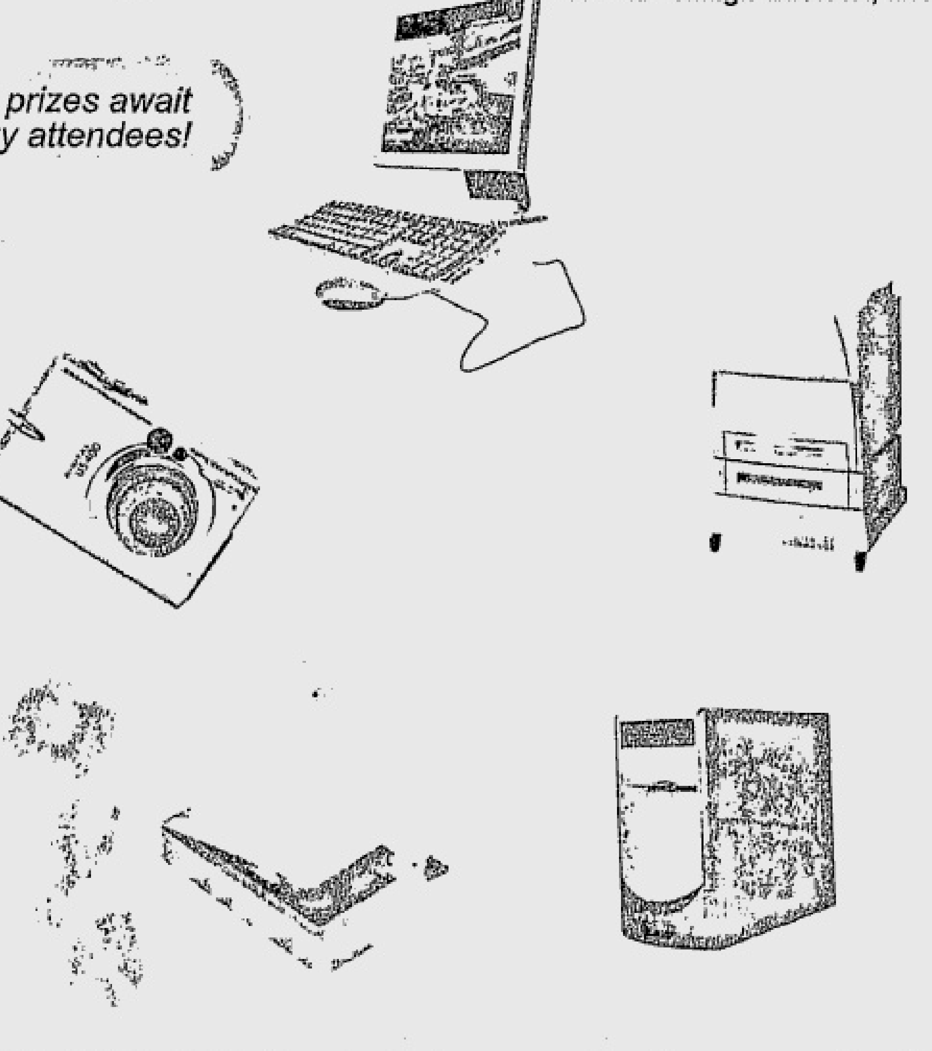

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# Night of the generals

From page A1

tired "to fill up the Heroes Hall," Gidaya said.

"We cannot bring 500, so we will just bring those who are available," he said. "It's not a loyalty check. There's no need for that because we support her."

Retired Col. Adorable Paguyo, a director at the LWH, said the invitation was announced Monday at the group's weekly fellowship.

"I think many of us will be attending," Paguyo said Tuesday night at the meeting of the Copa in the residence of former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco in Dasmariñas Village, Makati City.

## Coups

Navarro said soldiers would continue to join coups unless government and military leaders address graft and corruption, especially in the the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Soldiers do not think much has changed inside the military establishment after the resignation of former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, according to Navarro.

## Jose Pidal exposé

He also said that if the Jose Pidal exposé was not "handled well by the government, the government will collapse."

Flores, a former director of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center), said corruption in the Armed Forces was "systemic" especially in the acquisition and disbursement of medicines.

"Part of the problem is the lack of medical care for soldiers and their families. If the soldiers see that the medical care of their families is being taken cared of, they will have high morale," Flores said.

Gidaya said Agfo would not confront the President with the issue of corruption. "Our position is that those who have complaints about corruption should raise the issue in the proper forum. They should not generalize by saying that the military is corrupt," he said.

But Villanueva, who is Gidaya's classmate from Class 1951 of the Philippine Military Academy, vowed to "tell her (Ms Macapagal) everything."

"I do not, and will not support a coup. I hate bloodshed. But I am against graft and corruption," Villanueva, a retired combat pilot, said.

Villanueva said the retired generals were not out "to fight President Macapagal-Arroyo but to help her."

## Agfo supports President

He revealed that Agfo took a straw vote and elected to support the Macapagal administration. "The group predominantly supports the President. We don't want the President to resign."

At the Copa meeting, former Army Capt. Rene Jarque said Agfo and the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association (PMAAA) "have failed to advocate military reforms."

"What is needed is to open lines of communication between the ranks and the officers. Because military reform will ultimately benefit the young officers and the ranks more," he said.

Jarque, a 1986 West Point graduate who spent 12 years in the military before leaving the service, reported on his consultations with his former comrades in the Armed Forces.

## Demoralized by exposé

He said the soldiers fell "real and meaningful reforms in the Armed Forces have not occurred."

"We have to take a stand and tell the AFP that it has to reform," said Jarque who resigned his commission in 1998.

He said lower ranking soldiers were "demoralized" by graft and corruption in the military and by the Jose Pidal exposé.

"The reactions of soldiers in the ranks range from demoralization and apathy to renewed idealism," he said.

Jarque told Copa that the soldier's primary concern was economics. "The majority of those who enter the service is economics and livelihood. And we have to help them."

In recent weeks, Copa has been consulting with retired generals and inactive officers like Jarque to thresh out the problems plaguing the Armed Forces and government following the Oakwood mutiny and the Jose Pidal exposé.

The officers have been accused of recruiting young officers and plotting to overthrow the Macapagal administration, a charge which they have denied.

Cojuangco said the meetings with retired generals and with representatives of other sectors the past few weeks were aimed at coming up "with solutions to our problems."

"If the problems become worse and worse, some people will just take over the government. We want to ask the question what now and what can be done. We hope to come to a consensus and work within the democracy to resolve these problems," he said.

Billy Esposo, president of Copa, said they have been holding the meetings "to hear the people and come up with a definitive answer to problems of society."

Copa is slated to hold a big conference to come up with concrete solutions to the problems plaguing Philippine society.

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# Bacani says mutineers stirred conscience of nation

From page A1

They wore red armbands to symbolize the mutineers' cause. They said their loved ones only stood for "legitimate causes," in which the government does not seem to be interested.

## Breached agreement

They also decried Malacañang for allegedly failing to follow a reported agreement which ended the mutiny: that only the leaders of the mutiny would face charges while the enlisted men would be sent back to barracks.

"Madame President, please release them and comply with the agreement. Then we would have peace. Don't listen to those around you, the ones who are causing you so much problems," said Estelita Trillanes, mother of one of the mutiny's leaders, Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV.

The soldiers are currently detained in various military facilities: intelligence headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo, Villamor Air Base, Fort Bonifacio and Fort San Felipe, Cavite. They have been charged with coup d' état at the Department of Justice and at the Makati City Regional Trial Court.

## Consoling

"I only have a religious statement to make. I came here to pray for the relatives and to ask for grace for these people," Bacani told reporters before the Mass began.

He also consoled the relatives , saying God "will always be with you and He will make all things come together and turn to good."

Before and after the Mass, some relatives took turns narrating how the detention of their menfolk have affected them. Many were wives, mothers and daughters of the soldiers. The wives—some of whom were pregnant, carried infants or held on to toddlers —bewailed the loss of their breadwinners.

Some came from as far as Nueva Ecija and Cavite.

## Stories of pain

Shari-mar Bosi complained that she and her children could not have intimate moments with her husband, a staff sergeant, whenever they visit him.

"It pains us because we come from far away and can't even hug him. We can only touch hands because a wire screen separates us," she narrated. She added that the detained soldiers are not allowed to attend Sunday Mass with their families even if the chaplain had asked them to.

Between sobs, Vina Marciano, sister of Lt. Jose Enrico Dingle, vowed to continue her brother's struggle against corruption and bad government.

Florida, the mother of Lt. Eugene Gonzales, said she is proud that her ideals came out in her son.

The Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace, church-based rights organization which led in the gathering of the relatives, said the President's 'strong republic' advocacy "is fast decaying due to malignant graft and corruption in its entire system, including the Armed Forces."

EMJP scored the President "for playing Pontius Pilate and exempting herself from accountability over what happened."

"Instead of addressing real issues, witch-hunting and mudslinging against critics became the business of the Macapagal administration," the group said.

## 'Dawn for Motherland'

In a statement, the six leaders of the mutiny—Trillanes, Capt. Gerardo Gambala, Capt. Gary Alejano, Lt. James Layug, Capt. Milo Maestrecampo and Capt. Nick Faeldon—urged Filipinos to open their eyes to the corruption happening in the government and society and to take a stand.

"We, you, all of us are the strength of this country. Wake up and take a stand; justice, human rights and freedom won't be achieved if we could only content ourselves watching history as it happens. These should be fought for with sweat, blood and life," they pleaded.

Their one-page, bitter statement, titled "Dawn for the Motherland" and datelined "Isafp detention center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Sept. 15" was read by Alejano's wife Minnie after the Mass.

The six officers signed under a collective name, "Ang Bagong Katipunan."

## Endless war

The mutiny leaders highlighted the sacrifices they made in the frontlines of what they called an "endless and worthless war" that the government has been pursuing. They said it was during their tours of duty that they were exposed to the corruption and shortcomings of the government and society.

## Meaningful

During the first days of their incarceration, they recounted, someone asked them why they wasted their military careers by going to Oakwood Premier in Makati City.

"We answered: No, we did not. The stand we made was the only one which actually gave meaning and worth to our being soldiers," they said.

The six officers said their stand at Oakwood was not only for the sake of soldiers, but for their countrymen.

"We know that as ordinary citizens, you are suffering from the corruption, failure, shortcomings, and violence under the Arroyo administration," they said.

They noted the rising incidence of crime and drug abuse; the Purchased Power Adjustment rates in electric consumption; the losses in agriculture due to the country's membership in the World Trade Organization; corruption in the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the customs, police, military, health and public works agencies; the P3 trillion foreign debt; and the scandals plaguing First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

## Losing faith

The officers scoffed at how the President and the oligarchs "begged" the people to protect democracy, adding, "Is this the life brought about by the President's brand of democracy under the President? Never mind."

They also said they have lost faith in pursuing their causes through the coming elections, because "we would only be helplessly watching them steal power under an exercise that is full of cheating and whose results are dictated by money."

"In the final analysis, do you still want to be under Mrs. Arroyo for another six years?" they asked. "This is what the oppressive few want so that they can continue their depredations."

## Rich vs poor

The mutiny leaders said the nation should become aware that "this fight is between the many who are poor against the few who are rich."

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# Lawmaker seeks executive clemency for mutineers

### By Carlito Pablo

AN ADMINISTRATION congressman yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to grant executive clemency for most of the junior military officers who joined the July 27 mutiny, saying they are the "future Victor Corpuses of tomorrow."

Rep. Augusto "Boboy" Syjuco (Lakas, Iloilo) said that only a handful actively plotted with politicians in the failed coup and these are the ones who deserve to be meted out the maximum penalty.

"Most of the junior officers were fighting for what was right and it was unfortunate that their grievances were taken advantage of by their fellow officers who have been planning the coup for a while," Syjuco said in a phone interview.

Syjuco said that he was speaking out of personal experience, having gone to the Oakwood apartment-hotel in Makati at the height of the July 27 mutiny where he was able to talk with a number of officers and enlisted men.

"These junior officers and enlisted men could be the Victor Corpuses of tomorrow who are committed to pursue a cause for the betterment of the people," Syjuco said.

Syjuco was referring to Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, who as a young lieutenant raided the armory of the Philippine Military Academy in the early '70s when he defected to the communist-led New People's Army.

Later arrested and even sentenced to die through musketry along with then Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., Corpus was released from detention after the 1986 Edsa revolt and went back to active military service.

Corpus was later credited for Operation Lambat Bitag (net and trap), a military strategy of gradual constriction against communist rebels.

As chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, it was Corpus who discovered the coup plot hatched by the Oakwood mutineers.

Syjuco said: "Victor Corpus rose to become a general despite his past as a rebel and I believe that most of the Oakwood officers are just like him."

According to published reports, a total of 98 officers joined the July 27 mutiny, broken down as follows: 33 from the Army; 12, Air Force; 31, Navy; and 22, Marines.

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# Gov't doing a Taliban, says opposition solon

From page A1

regime, an opposition congressman said yesterday.

## Showy

Tarlac Rep. Gilbert Teodoro said the administration's "showy reliance on public morality" rather than in solving the root causes of problems "enforces an atmosphere similar to that in Afghanistan during the Taliban regime."

The Talibans had sought to control every aspect of its citizens' lives, including what kind of music the people should hear.

Teodoro said the government's lifestyle and night life checks were "more (for) show than effect . . . It's like curing a case of venereal disease by wearing a condom."

He said these "do little to improve governance."

"Stability, performance and the correct system, rather than Philippine Talibanism, will improve the situation," Teodoro said.

Other congressmen agreed, saying President Macapagal-Arroyo should rethink her order barring off-duty policemen from entering bars and nightclubs as this constitutes an invasion of privacy.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay said the "sweeping recommendation" to restrict the movement of policemen even when they are not on duty was ill-advised.

"It's not the business of the state to probe one's private life and morality, especially after work," Pichay said.

"Due process must be observed. The lifestyle check has been abused to humiliate public officials. We have to draw the line between what is moral and what is legal," he said.

A policeman who goes to a bar after work using his own money should not be immediately condemned for it, Pichay said. The policeman, he said, might just be celebrating his birthday or was just invited by friends.

Citizens Battle Against Corruption (Cibac) Rep. Kim Bernardo-Lokin said off-duty policemen must be free to do what they want as long as the activity is not illegal.

## 'Unconstitutional'

Deputy Minority Leader Rolex Suplico, a lawyer, said the President's order was unconstitutional.

"Whatever he (policeman) does after office hours, that's his problem. The President has no business regulating that, not after office hours, otherwise she should also close down the bars," he said.

Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said Malacañang should have first conducted a surveillance of policemen frequenting night spots to determine where they are getting the money they spend there.

He chided the President's propensity to resort to programs that, he said, were only good for photo opportunities and television sound bytes.

But Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles said public officials who "flaunt their money by going to expensive clubs" are legitimate targets of checks.

He said "decent decorum is required of government officials."

But he added that having a night life "in moderation" and "according to (one's) means" was OK.

## Government's image

The negative feedback notwithstanding, the President [illegible]rday defended her policy, [illegible] the public judges the gov[illegible]ent through its performance and the habits of its workers.

"Working on a good image for the government does not stop after office hours," she said in a statement.

Ms Macapagal said the symptoms of corruption and profligacy are seen mostly outside the office in the lifestyle and personal conduct of officials and employees.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said public servants gave up certain rights when they entered the service. He also said the Constitution requires all officials to be accountable to the people at all times.

## Code of conduct

He said the Code of Conduct for government officials prescribes simple living or modest lives appropriate to their positions and income.

Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) Chair Dario Rama said government officials and employees who cannot give up the habit of going to expensive nightclubs and who cannot lead modest lives should just leave government service.

Rama said the law was clear that "public office is a public trust" and that officials should lead simple lives "24 hours a day, 365 days a year."

"You cannot leave your office at 5 o'clock in the afternoon and declare: 'I'm a free man!'," he said. *With reports from Juliet Javellana, Armand Nocum*

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# Congressman scores . . .

From page A1

inas that it would burn 100 American flags in the course of a "Long March" against poverty during Bush's eight-hour visit.

The INQUIRER on Wednesday had the planned "fiery welcome" as its banner story, which prompted Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez to lament the "sadly un-Filipino screaming headline." He said that the Philippines was noted for its vaunted hospitality, and that to welcome an ally and friend in this manner was counterproductive.

## Undeserved publicity

Gonzalez pointed out that the media had given extensive coverage to anti-administration causes. As a result, he said, the few wishing to topple duly constituted authority were getting coverage that they did not deserve because they only supposedly emphasized the negative aspects of daily living and not the resoluteness of the Filipino to overcome the adversities of life.

"It is undeniable that when the US sneezes, the Philippines gets a cold," he conceded. But he said that to highlight the plans of anti-Bush protesters was to fan the fire of dissent.

According to Ms Macapagal, Bush is "highly respected and appreciated by Filipinos in our country and in the US."

"I look forward to a warm, rousing welcome of President Bush by the Filipino people," she said, adding:

"Our strategic partnership with the US in fighting terrorism and poverty has the overwhelming support of the majority of our people. The surveys reflect this unequivocally."

Ms Macapagal described the RP-US relationship as a "genuinely mutual relationship that transcends the colonial ties of the past."

She said Bush had gone out of his way to help war veterans get more benefits and facilitate the remittances of Filipinos in the United States to their home country.

"He is very sensitive to national interest and constitutional prerogatives in the conduct of joint military training exercises," Ms Macapagal said.

## Force and tool

Gonzalez said that while the media constituted a powerful force and an effective tool in influencing public opinion, this power should be used widely and with fairness.

"It is a paradox to me why the media seem to relish the job of espousing the cause of protesters whose numbers are few, sacrificing the nation's welfare in the face of destabilizing moves of political rivals whose only concern is personal political power," he said.

Gonzalez cited a survey of public opinion conducted by radio and TV networks, which, he said, indicated the people's eagerness to welcome Bush and listen to what the US president had to say.

He pointed out that many Filipinos had relatives in the United States, and that events happening there affected them in many ways.

Gonzalez also said the media had the biggest role in propagating dissent because of the extensive coverage disenchanted groups were enjoying.

He said the media could be just as powerful a tool in helping the government unite the people and achieve a national coalition of concerned citizens.

"Filipinos need not be divided. And the media are an essential force in achieving this," he added.

## 'A notch higher'

In San Nicolas, Pangasinan, the chief of the Philippine National Police said the security to be put in place for Bush would be "a notch higher" than that for other visiting heads of state.

"He is the US president. [And we] know it is the US that is at the forefront of the war against terrorism," PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said by way of explaining the stringent security preparations.

Ebdane, who inaugurated this town's police station yesterday, said a committee composed of representatives of the PNP, the Armed Forces, Malacañang, and the Departments of Tourism and of Foreign Affairs was working on "scenarios" that could possibly occur during Bush's visit.

He said these would be the bases for finalizing the security measures.

The PNP has yet to determine how many policemen will be deployed.

## Full alert

Ebdane said the PNP would not put all police headquarters on full alert for the visit. He said the alert would be imposed only in areas where Bush would be and where terrorists and insurgents were known to operate.

He said the PNP had raised a "heightened alert" (equivalent to the "blue alert" of the AFP) in Central Mindanao, Compostela Valley, Basilan, Zamboanga peninsula and Bicol.

Ebdane said provincial police directors could upgrade the alert level if they expected a problem to crop up during the visit. *Reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

## Sourcing the story

AFTER our series last year on Pagcor's slot machine expansion program was named a finalist in this year's Jaime V. Ongpin awards for excellence in journalism, a follow-up seemed in order. What we found was unexpected, and even more disturbing.

Our sources in Pagcor—many of them managers—painted a bleak picture of the financial condition of the country's most profitable company. They backed up their claims with documentary proof. The mid-year planning conference of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., held on June 19 and 20, yielded briefing papers that proved both relevant and helpful. Each major assertion in this special report has at least one document to support it, not simply a quote from a reliable source.

However, some documents, if cited, would have established the identity of the sources. In those instances, this special report ran the sources' quotes alone.

The INQUIRER interviewed several sources inside Pagcor, all of whom requested anonymity. One manager said they feared the same "harassment" a former top Pagcor executive, Ray Peter Vivo, suffered after blowing the whistle on anomalies last year. All of them, however, expressed readiness to testify before Congress or any independent inquiry.

*John Nery*

# No trouble at all, says Pagcor chief

From page A1

in January 2001, admitted that the government's third-largest revenue earner was facing a drop in revenue while suffering an increase in operating expenses. He identified three factors that he said explained Pagcor's current financial condition.

"*Ganito ang problema* (Here is the problem)," he said.

"*Dumating ang* AMLA (the Anti-Money Laundering Law took effect)." He said the AMLA had scared off some of Pagcor's customers or potential customers.

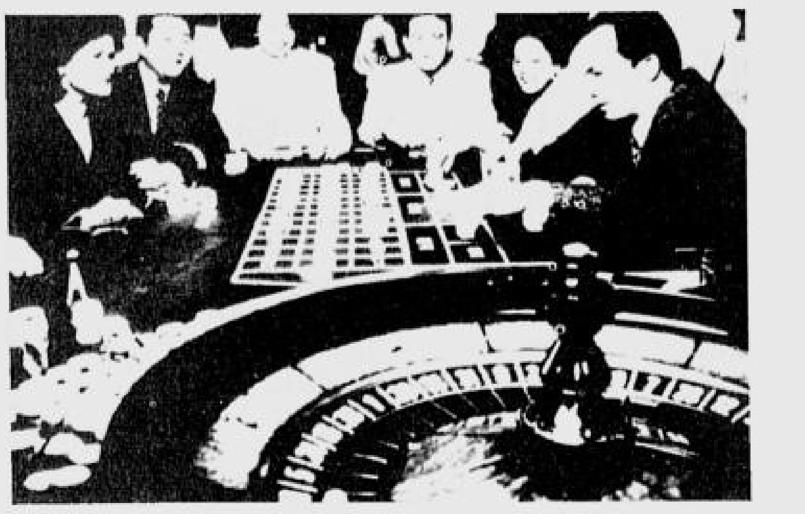
And then "*pumasok ang* SARS (the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome crisis entered the picture)." The net effect, he said, was a substantial drop in the number of casino players.

He said he had explained the decline in the President's Social Fund to President Macapagal-Arroyo in the same way. "*Pinaliwanag ko sa kanya*, Ma'am, *walang* player (I explained to her, Ma'am, there are no players)."

The third factor, Genuino said, was the presence of syndicates in the casinos. "*Ang hirap dito*, day-to-day *ang laban sa sindikato* (What's difficult here is that the struggle against the syndicates is day to day)."

But he said prospects for the company, which had experienced record growth in his first two years in office, have considerably brightened. "*Ngayong* July, *umaakyat na* (Revenues have started to go up again in July)."

He also said that, aside from uprooting the syndicates, he was committed to strengthening Pagcor's financial condition by "maximizing manpower" and "waste-cutting."



Asked categorically whether Pagcor was in a financial crunch, he said in Filipino. "No, we are not. And you know why? Because when we recover, we'll be all right."

# GMA 7 stops Probe Team report . . .

From page A1

undisclosed assets of Genuino, a known close friend of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier ordered a "lifestyle check" on public officials to curb corruption.

### Undeclared assets

Flores said the story alleged that Genuino owned shares in several corporations which he did not declare in his Statement of Assets and Liabilities for Feb. 2001, December 2001 and December 2002.

According to Flores, the SEC documents furnished them by Probe did not show that Genuino still owned those assets as of the above dates.

"We have advised Probe that they can air their lifestyle check story on Pagcor's Efraim Genuino as soon as they have all the needed supporting documents," she said.

Lazaro maintains that their reportorial team has come up with a balanced and fair report.

Genuino himself refused to be interviewed, she said.

"We respect the prerogative of GMA 7 as the carrier station (not to air the episode) but I feel as head of the team that we did our job," she said.

She said they showed the management the script when requested "out of courtesy," even when they do not usually do so.

"We fully expected to air because GMA 7 knew what we have been doing all along," said Lazaro.

### Checking, double-checking

Probe Team's Bernadette Sembrano, who worked on the story, plugged the report on Genuino at the end of news program Saksi which she anchored that night.

Lazaro said about an hour before airing, network officials told her that only the segment on Genuino would be pulled out.

She objected. A few minutes before airtime, she was told the entire episode would be pulled out.

"I do appreciate their concern to protect the station and us as well. But we tried our best to consider their suggestions. We did our responsibility of checking and double-checking," Lazaro stressed.

### Pressures

She acknowledged "there were many pressures that came to play" in the decision, but she could not say if Pagcor threatened to pull out its commercials if the episode was shown.

"I don't know that for a fact," she said.

She said she told the management that she would air the episode next week.

"So far they've been saying yes, but that remains to be seen," she said.

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# Cash cow mismanaged, say firm's managers

From page A1

"This continuing borrowing mode to cover operating cash flow deficits cannot be sustained for long if Pagcor is to avoid going under," the executive said.

### 4 causes

Another manager identified four causes behind Pagcor's financial difficulty: "onerous" deals; a "surge" in new employees in the last two years; "profligate spending"; and "massive, mindless" donations.

How much debt has the government's third-largest revenue earner (after only the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Customs) incurred?

At the firm's mid-year planning conference held on June 19 and 20, a branch manager recalled, a member of the company's five-man board asked Eduardo de Guzman, assistant managing head for finance, precisely that question. De Guzman's answer: P1.4 billion.

"*P1.3 billion lang ito,*" chair Efraim Genuino told the INQUIRER in July, when he visited the newspaper's main office to answer questions about the company's financial condition.

Genuino confirmed that the money came from two government-controlled banks, the Landbank and the Philippine National Bank. From two different sources, the INQUIRER also learned that the branches involved were Landbank UN Avenue, in Manila, and PNB Ermita, also in Manila.

Is the billion-peso loan a sign of financial distress or ill health? "No," Genuino said, emphatically. The money went to pay off an obligation to the Waterfront group of plastics tycoon William Gatchalian, he said, adding: "The other amounts (uses of the loan) are for expansion and equipment upgrade. By December, *kalahati na lang* (half of the loan will be paid)." ***(See separate story on Page A1.)***

But two sources insist that the loans were taken out to fund both operating expenses and remittances to government agencies—something which should have been automatically deducted from Pagcor's "net winnings" at the end of every month.

The branch manager present at the planning conference summarized Pagcor's financial situation, as presented to the company's officer corps by its own finance and treasury department, in this way: "Before, we took out a loan because interest income was good. Now we are taking out loans because we don't have a choice."

### Bleak portrait

Estela Ramos, De Guzman's superior and Pagcor's finance chief, declined to be interviewed, but in the course of the past few months the INQUIRER was able to obtain copies of the briefing papers presented at the mid-year conference and other documents from other sources, as well as conduct interviews with Pagcor insiders.

The interviews and the documents paint a bleak portrait. At the very least, they show that Pagcor, whose net winnings last year topped P18 billion and whose donations run into the hundreds of millions, is facing a financial mess.

Indications include the unusually large loan; the sudden firing of some 150 longtime contractual employees coupled with an unexpected freeze-hiring and freeze-promotion policy; and worrisome financial figures, including a spike in operating expenses and a drop in revenue.

### Acid-test ratio

"Based on traditional financial ratios, it appears that Pagcor is fairly liquid. Its current ratio was 1.19 to 1 as of end 2002 and even improved to 1.40 to 1 as of April 30, 2003," the executive said. "However, the picture deteriorates when the acid-test ratio is determined."

Liquidity is the measure of a company's ability to meet maturing obligations. The current ratio, the traditional or conservative approach, measures liquidity by comparing all of a firm's current assets against its current liabilities (current in this sense means "within the year"). The quick or acid-test ratio measures liquidity by comparing only the assets that can be readily converted to cash, against current liabilities. By this second measure, the executive said, Pagcor's acid-test ratio has declined to 0.48 to 1 as of April 30.

"This means that Pagcor can only meet roughly half of its current liabilities as they fall due," the executive explained.

In all of 2002, Pagcor had a negative cash flow of P120 million, he said. In the first four months of 2003 alone, the negative cash flow reached P850 million.

### Bad news

The financials bear bad news for President Macapagal-Arroyo herself.

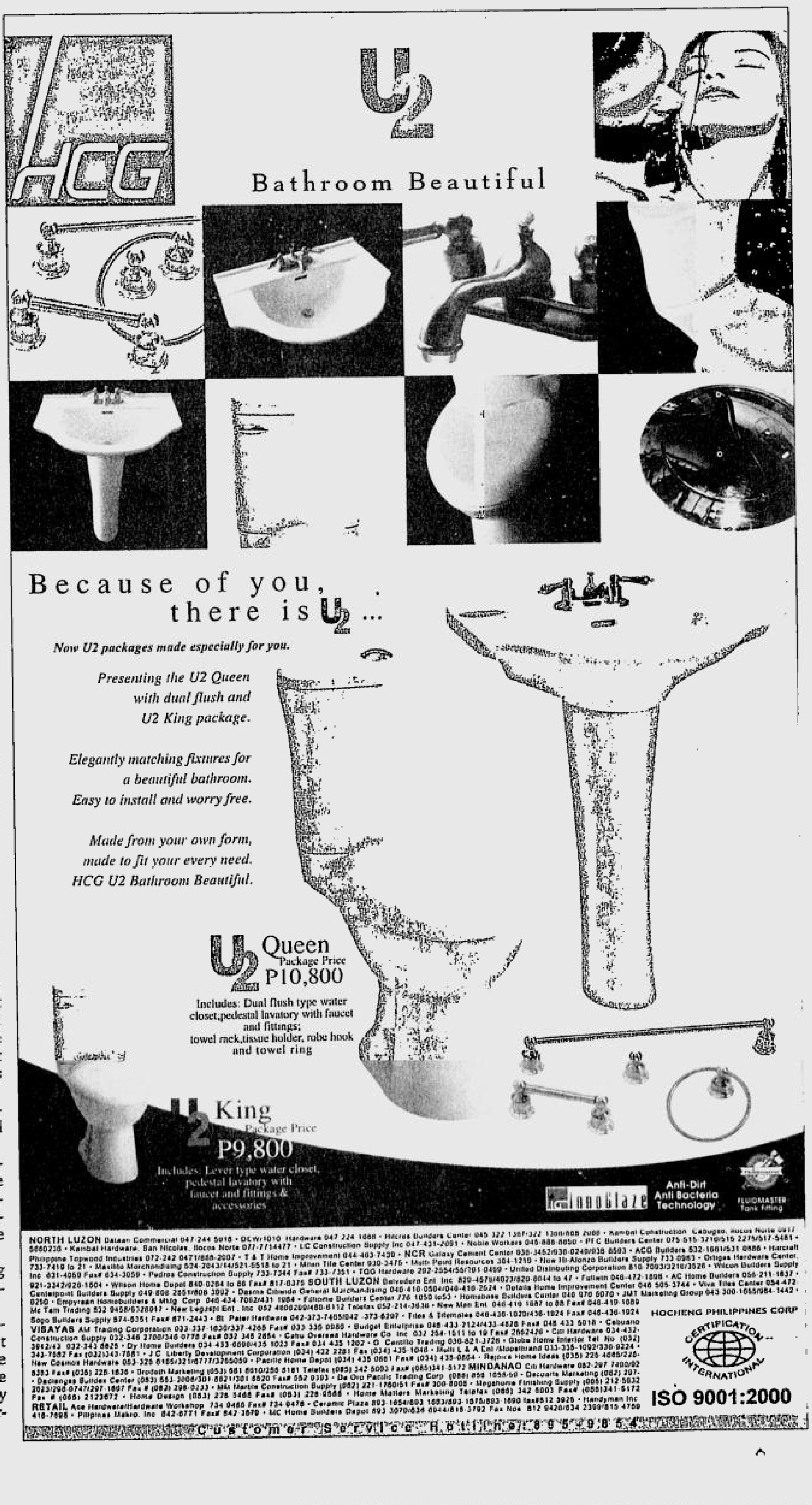
In 2002, the President's Social Fund (PSF)—effectively Pagcor's net profit, which bankrolls the President's special programs—reached P1.1 billion. But in the first four months of this year, the PSF amounted to only P170 million. If annualized at the present rate, the fund would reach about P510 million—less than half of last year's total.

One Pagcor insider said monthly remittances to the PSF this year have been delayed by at least three months.

But last July, Genuino said Pagcor had already remitted P30 million for June. The same insider said, however, that the June remittance was made only in July, after questions about Pagcor's financial condition were already raised.

A point of comparison: In June, according to Genuino, Pagcor paid P70 million in interest payments on the outstanding loans.

In his interview at the INQUIRER offices, Genuino was accompanied by Pagcor president Butch Francisco, deputy chief of staff Rene Figueroa, PR chief Dodie King and, for some reason, Pagcor surveillance chief Mabuhay Rosero. ***(Tomorrow: The four causes explained)***



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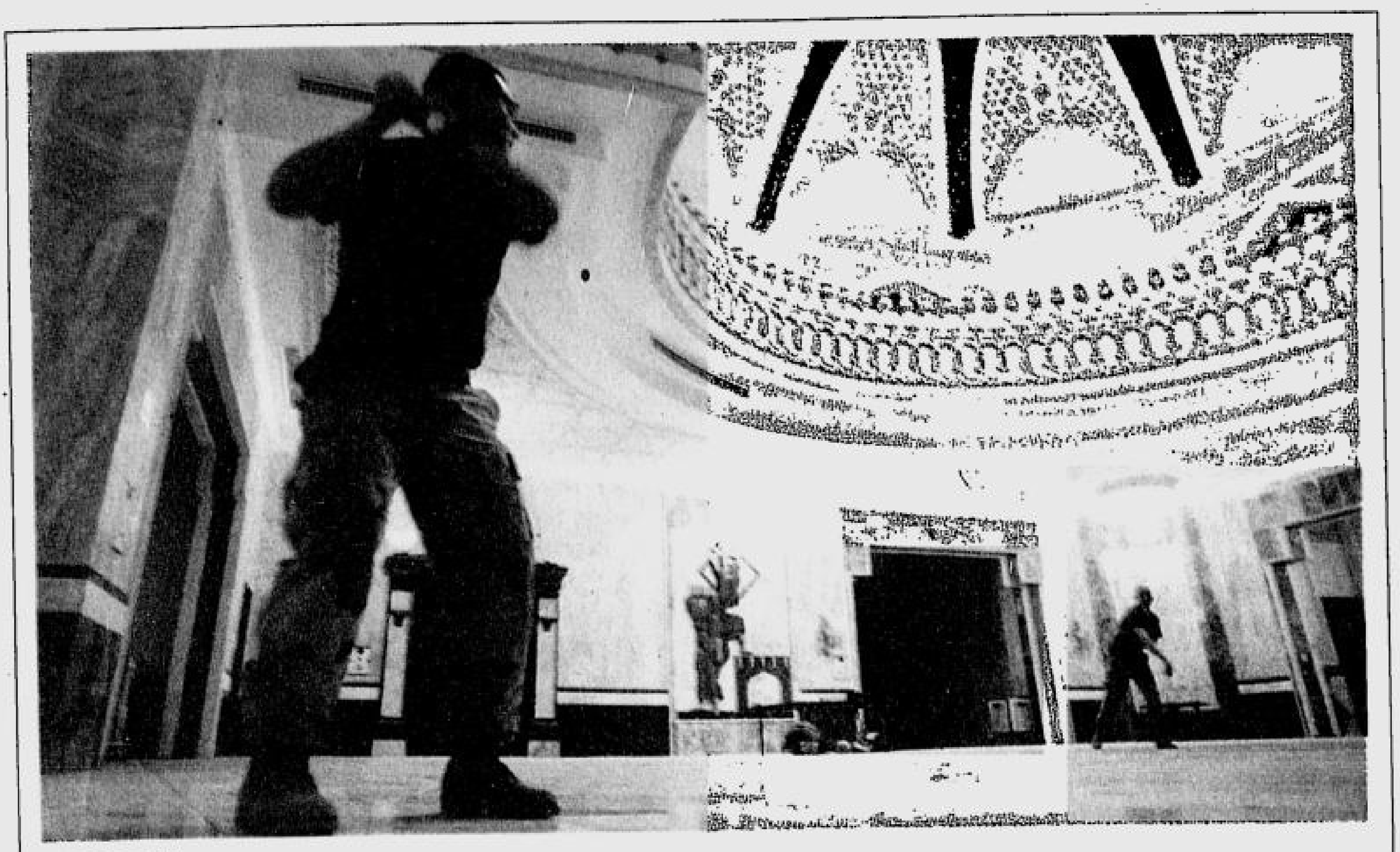
# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco



**PLAY BALL**
Soldiers from the fourth division of the US Army play baseball under the ornate dome of one of ousted Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's palaces at a US army base in Tikrit, Saddam's hometown and stronghold. REUTERS

## US vetoes UN plea to Israel to lay off Arafat

UNITED NATIONS—The United States on Tuesday vetoed a UN resolution demanding that Israel not harm or deport Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, saying the text failed to name Palestinian groups blamed for suicide bombings.

Eleven Security Council members voted in favor of the draft while Britain, Germany and Bulgaria abstained after hours of consultations failed to lead to a compromise acceptable to both the United States and Syria, the resolution's sponsor.

The measure, drafted by Palestinian UN envoy Nasser al-Kidwa with the support of Arab governments, "demands that Israel, the occupying power, desist from any act of deportation and cease any threat to the safety of the elected president of the Palestinian Authority."

"We will come back to you, perhaps soon in the future," Al-Kidwa told the council following the vote. "We will not be intimidated by what happened."

Accusing Arafat of fomenting violence, an allegation he denies, the Israeli security cabinet last week announced Israel would "remove" him as "an obstacle to peace," although it did not say how or when.

The Israeli declaration unleashed a flood of international indignation. During nearly eight hours of harsh debate in the 15-nation Security Council on Monday, more than 40 governments condemned the decision in principle to get rid of Arafat.

After the vote, US Ambassador John Negroponte joined other council members in cautioning Israel that the veto did not mean it should harm Arafat or send him into exile.

He called the resolution "flawed" because it failed to explicitly condemn Palestinian militant groups, such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, all of which have been blamed for suicide bombings in Israel.

"This resolution did not take a clear stand against the actions of these terrorist groups or call for decisive action against them," Negroponte said.

But Syrian UN envoy Fayssal Mekdad called the veto "regrettable" and said Israel "should not be a member of the United Nations because it is not a peace-loving country.

"Syria believes that Israel is responsible for its illogical policy and Israel is as well responsible for having scuttled the peace process in the Middle East," he said.

The council decided late on Monday to hold a vote on the resolution at Syria's request, despite a veto threat from Washington. Hours of informal talks ensued, aimed at finding a compromise to avert a US veto while retaining Syria's support. But in the end, no last-minute changes were proposed. *Reuters*

## Germany, France, Britain move to heal rift over Iraq

**BERLIN—Germany, France and Britain agreed on Tuesday to talks on narrowing their differences over Iraq's future and the role of the United Nations in it.**

And in a diplomatic boost to Baghdad's US-installed leaders, Opec invited Iraq to a meeting of the oil cartel.

France and Germany want a bigger UN role in Iraq and a quicker transfer of power to Iraqis themselves—matters sure to be discussed next weekend with Britain, the strongest supporter of the US-led war that deposed Saddam Hussein.

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder will host French President Jacques Chirac and British Prime Minister Tony Blair in Berlin.

"The meeting serves to agree to common positions in foreign policy after there were divergent opinions in the run-up to the Iraq war," the German government said in a statement.

With forces in Iraq suffering almost daily casualties from guerrilla attacks and costs of the occupation mounting, the United States wants support for a new UN resolution that would keep it in charge but bring in other states' money and troops.

UN talks in Geneva on Iraq last weekend failed to end differences between the five permanent members of the Security Council—the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China.

The Iraq war opened up deep divisions in Europe, souring relations between backers of the US-led invasion like Britain, Spain and Poland and vocal opponents led by France and Germany, who thwarted Britain's bid for a UN mandate for the conflict. France, Russia and Germany, which holds a rotating seat on the Security Council, have all criticized the resolution drafted by US President George W. Bush's administration.

A French foreign ministry spokesperson said France wanted fast international recognition of Iraqi sovereignty—preferably within a month—but accepted it could take time before a full hand over of power by US forces was possible.

Blair's new special representative to Iraq said Britain wanted authority to be transferred to Iraqis as fast as possible, but local leaders first had to draw up a constitution and prepare for elections.

"If that can be done, and it depends on Iraqis to do it, in a squeezed timetable, the United Kingdom is all for accelerating that process," Sir Jeremy Greenstock said in Baghdad.

Greenstock also said it was clear Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network was involved in Iraq's postwar violence.

Attackers have killed 73 US soldiers since the United States declared major combat over in Iraq on May 1. In the latest violence, three soldiers were wounded when they drove over an explosive device south of Baghdad on Tuesday.

A leading Bush administration hawk accused Syria of failing to stop militants crossing the border into Iraq to kill Americans. Undersecretary of State John Bolton also said the United States must keep open the option of using "every tool"—code for the remote possibility of military action—to dissuade Syria and others from pursuing chemical, biological or atomic weapons.

Syria, which denies US accusations that it "supports terrorism," said earlier on Tuesday it was happy to help to stabilize and reconstruct Iraq if the Security Council set a timetable for a US withdrawal. *Reuters*

## US warns Syria over arms, terror

WASHINGTON—The United States on Tuesday warned Syria that it would be "held accountable" for any attempts to acquire or market weapons of mass destruction and its links to extremist groups.

The White House put Syria on guard after a top state department official said the Middle East country was a growing threat to international security and a concern to the United States.

"We've made it very clear to Syria what they need to do, that their behavior is unacceptable, and that they need to change their behavior," said White House spokesperson Scott McClellan.

He accused Syria of aiding groups including Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and Hezbollah and expressed US worries that Damascus was failing to close its border with Iraq to extremists seeking to attack US-led forces.

"Their behavior is unacceptable, and states that harbor terror, as the president has made clear, will be held accountable," the spokesperson added. *AFP*

## Cops nab suspected Lindh killer

STOCKHOLM—Swedish police arrested on Tuesday the man they believe killed Foreign Minister Anna Lindh, a breakthrough in a case which has evoked memories of the unsolved assassination of Prime Minister Olof Palme in 1986.

"The person suspected on reasonable grounds for the murder of Foreign Minister Anna Lindh has been arrested and taken in for questioning," Stockholm county police Chief Constable Carin Gotblad told a late-night news conference.

Lindh was stabbed last Wednesday in a central Stockholm department store while out shopping without bodyguards. The 46-year-old mother of two, who had been tipped as Sweden's next prime minister, died of her wounds the next day.

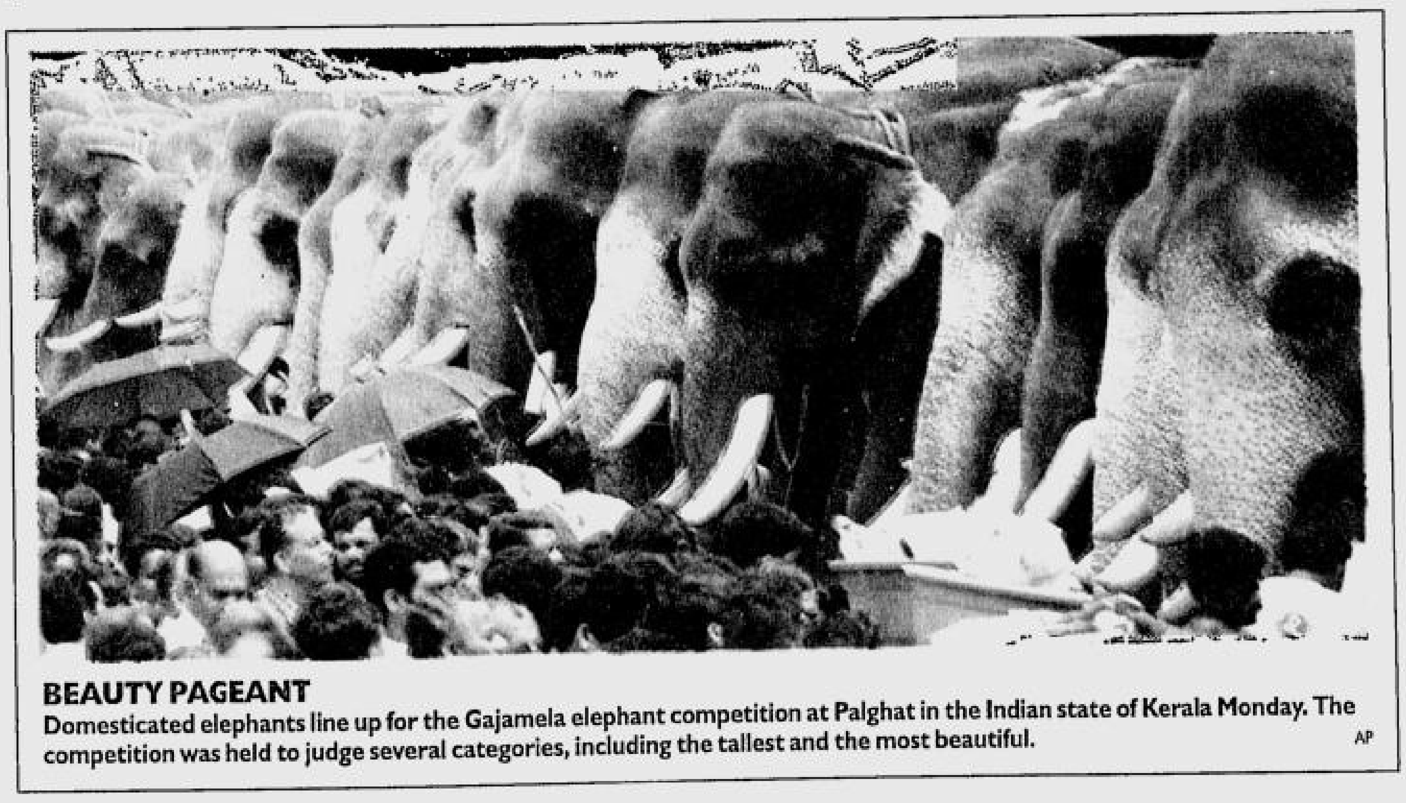
Plain-clothes police arrested the unarmed suspect, who has not been named, at 9:07 p.m. outside a pub-restaurant near Sweden's national football stadium Rasunda in a north Stockholm suburb.

### 'Dressed in blue'

"He was dressed in blue," recalled Magnus Bruun, a waiter at the down-at-heel East End Company pub. He said the man was among a crowd watching soccer on a big-screen television.

"The arrest was completely undramatic," said Stockholm police Commissioner Lef Jennekvist, who is leading the investigation.

"The person taken into custody tonight looks quite like the (man in the) pictures," he said, referring to security camera images taken at the store just before the attack on Lindh. *Reuters*



**BEAUTY PAGEANT**
Domesticated elephants line up for the Gajamela elephant competition at Palghat in the Indian state of Kerala Monday. The competition was held to judge several categories, including the tallest and the most beautiful. AP

## 'Isabel' weakens

NAGS HEAD, N.C.—Hurricane "Isabel" weakened on Tuesday but tens of thousands of people on the North Carolina coast were urged to evacuate as the storm threatened a large swath of the heavily populated US eastern seaboard.

The hurricane was still hundreds of miles out in the Atlantic Ocean but moving steadily on a path that would bring its center ashore on Thursday on North Carolina's fragile Outer Banks island chain, then north through Virginia and close to Washington.

By 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Isabel's top winds were 170 kph. It had weakened from a Category 3 to a Category 2 storm on the Saffir-Simpson scale of 1 to 5 that measures hurricanes' destructive power, the National Hurricane Center said. *Reuters*

## California recall still in legal limbo

SAN FRANCISCO—The future of California's controversial gubernatorial recall election remained in doubt on Tuesday after a US appeals court asked for legal briefs on whether it should reconsider an order to delay the vote.

Acting on the request of a single federal judge, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals asked for briefs from all sides on whether the court should have 11 of its judges review "en banc" an earlier decision by a three-judge panel delaying the election from Oct. 7 until next March.

A spokeswoman said Secretary of State Kevin Shelley, the state's top election official, would express his desire for a 9th Circuit "en banc" review.

Amid legal uncertainty, voters continued to cast early absentee ballots and candidates including Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger kept campaigning in the unpredictable election that has attracted international attention.

The legal minefield, at least for now, overshadows other issues in the campaign, including Schwarzenegger's trouble with women voters over past sexist behavior and a controversy over millions of dollars in Indian gaming contributions to Democrat Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante.

Bustamante received bad news when California's elections watchdog said on Tuesday that it was investigating whether he had recently improperly raised millions of dollars for a 2002 campaign fund to skirt campaign finance limits.

"Such conduct would constitute a violation of the Act at the time the contributions are made and an evasion of the contribution limits for the 2003 gubernatorial race," the Fair Political Practices Commission general counsel Luisa Menchaca wrote in a legal brief. *Reuters*

## Court upholds Bali bomber's death sentence

JAKARTA—An Indonesian court has upheld the death sentence on convicted Bali bomber Amrozi, but he will appeal to the Supreme Court, officials and defense lawyers said on Tuesday.

Islamic militant Amrozi was sentenced to death by firing squad by the Denpasar district court for his role in last year's nightclub bombings on the island of Bali that killed 202 people, mainly foreign holidaymakers.

The sentence has now been upheld by the Bali High Court.

Max Takaria, spokesperson for the high court, told Reuters the judges took around two weeks before reaching a decision on Friday to support the previous ruling.

"Yes, we have (upheld the sentence) on Sept. 12 because the ruling from the district court was already fitting," Takaria said by telephone from Bali's capital of Denpasar, 1,000 km east of Jakarta.

Amrozi's chief lawyer said he would appeal again against the sentence.

"I have been informed of this. The next appeal will be raised in seven to 14 days to the Supreme Court. We will file it as soon as possible," lawyer Wirawan Adnan said. *Reuters*

## Colombian rebels deny kidnapping

BOGOTA—Colombian rebels denied Tuesday any involvement in this weekend's kidnap of eight foreigners, as thousands of soldiers searched for the tourists in a jungle area of the northern Colombian mountains.

In a message on its website, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) said it had no part in abducting the eight—four Israelis, two Britons, one German and one Spaniard—from a group of hikers in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountains.

The FARC instead blamed Colombian military intelligence for staging the abduction, which they will later successfully resolve to produce results for President Alvaro Uribe, the group said in a statement posted to the website. *AFP*

# The youth boldly take on the Green and Blue Revolution

**College student Shenna Maranguit from Davao, afire with passion and armed with added knowledge after attending a Bayer Young Environmental Envoy eco-camp last year in Baguio, has spearheaded a watershed project in her part of the country. Ivan Pumaren, another Bayer Young Environmental Envoy, is leading a municipal composting project in his barangay in Iloilo City. U.P. Los Baños student Kelvin Faderan, also a Bayer Young Environmental Envoy, is deeply involved in the Mount San Cristobal National Park Reforestation Project in Laguna. Protecting the environment — land, sea and air — has become a passion for more and more young people.**

The Bayer Young Environmental Envoy Program was launched by Bayer in the Philippines in 2001 in partnership with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and Luntiang Pilipinas. The program is aimed at challenging college students from universities and colleges nationwide, who have a genuine concern for the environment, to participate actively or pursue projects that would save and protect Mother Nature. Every year, the search is conducted, and some 12 young environmental envoys from all over the country are selected to participate in an eco-camp. At the end of the eco-camp, the envoys are made to present their personal action plans to a board of judges. The top five are awarded a weeklong environmental trip to Germany where they have the opportunity to interact with youth counterparts from other countries in Asia Pacific.

*Eco-Innovate delegates from the Philippines, Laureto and Non, with Dr. Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of UNEP.*

Bonar Laureto and Lemuel Non, two college students from Mindanao, got the chance to represent the country at the Eco-Innovate forum held in Sydney, Australia recently. Along with other young eco-innovators from Asia Pacific, New Zealand and Australia, Laureto and Non presented their new and outstanding ideas to promote sustainable development. Laureto's eco-innovative idea was the development of cement coming from solid wastes of sugar production. Laureto, with the help of a colleague Deorex Navaja, developed a technology for purifying and recycling sugar wastes into cement. Non's eco-innovative idea involved a new biotechnology that would utilize plant algae to reduce carbon dioxide emission from factories which is a major cause of global warming.

Leilani Gallardo, a young writer for the Business World, and Paula Nocon from the Philippine Star also got the chance to attend this same Eco-Innovate forum. Leilani was the lone Asian journalist given a BEAM (Bayer Environmental Award - Media) commendation for a three-part article she wrote on the "Clean Air Act" which she collaborated with two other writers, Cecille Yap and Ruffy Villanueva. She received the award from Dr. Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of UNEP. Overall BEAM winner was Melissa Fyfe, from Australia.

Eco-Innovate is another initiative of Bayer, UNEP and The University of New South Wales. It is aimed at challenging young people from Australia and Asia Pacific to translate eco-innovations into viable applications. The program allows the youth to interact with high profile opinion leaders, experts and business mentors to learn how to bring their ideas or inventions on sustainable development to practical applications at a commercial level.

These people are only a few examples of hundreds of youth from the Philippines and the Asia-Pacific region that have benefited from environmental and educational programs organized by Bayer and its partner in youth development, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The *Bayer Young Environmental Envoy* and *Eco-Innovate* are two such programs that challenge the youth to start caring for the environment as early as possible.

Bayer, a research-based global enterprise with core competencies in health care, polymers, chemicals and crop science, is thoroughly committed to conserving natural resources, operating its facilities safely and minimizing the environmental impact of its activities.

*Courtesy call to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo by 2001 Bayer Young Environmental Envoys.*

*The Bayer Young Environmental Envoys 200_ in a tree-planting activity in Camp John Hay, Baguio City.*

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IN DAVAO CITY

*Shenna Maranguit and her Watershed Project in Davao City.*

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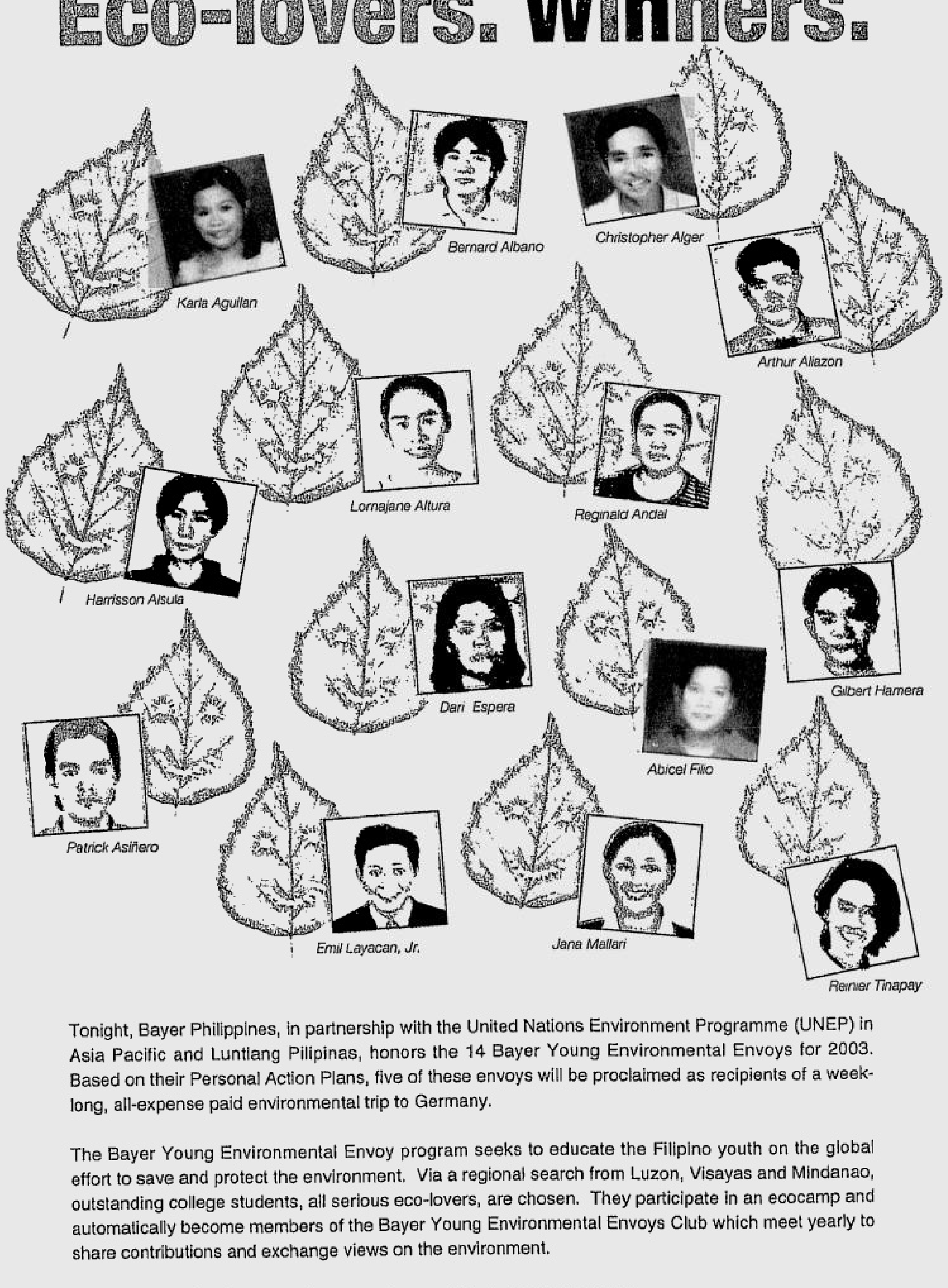
## Tonight's their night!

## Student leaders. Eco-lovers. Winners.



Tonight, Bayer Philippines, in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Asia Pacific and Luntiang Pilipinas, honors the 14 Bayer Young Environmental Envoys for 2003. Based on their Personal Action Plans, five of these envoys will be proclaimed as recipients of a week-long, all-expense paid environmental trip to Germany.

The Bayer Young Environmental Envoy program seeks to educate the Filipino youth on the global effort to save and protect the environment. Via a regional search from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, outstanding college students, all serious eco-lovers, are chosen. They participate in an ecocamp and automatically become members of the Bayer Young Environmental Envoys Club which meet yearly to share contributions and exchange views on the environment.

*Yes, student leaders, eco-lovers, winners. Tonight's your night.*

Bayer is the youth education partner of the United Nations Environment Program in Asia Pacific

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LUNTIANG PILIPINAS

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# OPINION

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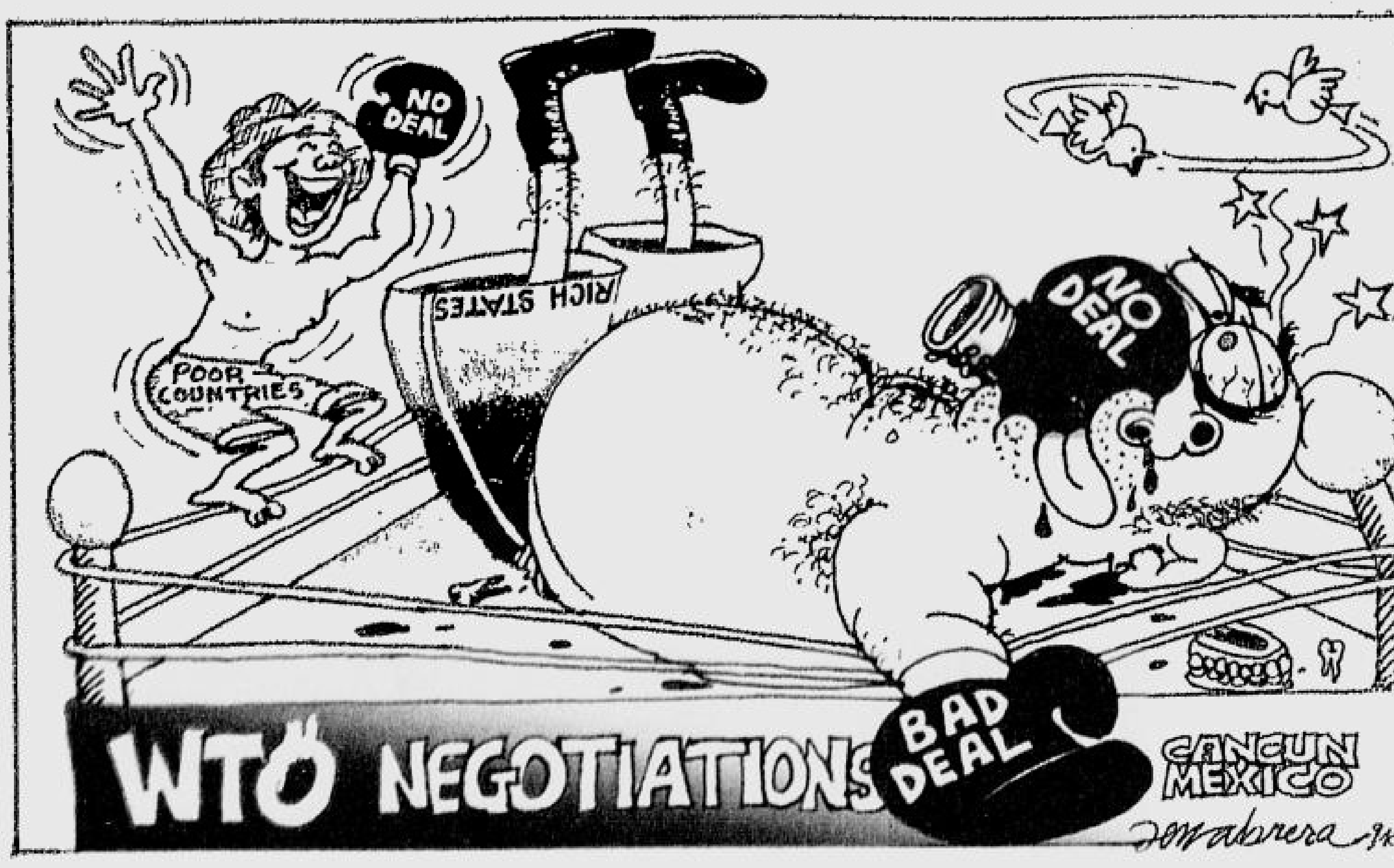

## Shifts

THE RESIGNATION of Jaime Cardinal Sin as Archbishop of Manila draws to a close an era of high profile political activism of the Philippine Catholic Church.

His retirement heralds a shift in the direction and emphasis of the Church's activities, as this Catholic country's most important social institution since the Spanish era, outside of the secular authority of the state. As in the case of the election of a new pope, the appointment of a new archbishop of Manila paves the way for a transition in the emphasis of the Church's exercise of its spiritual and political influence over its Filipino constituency, and even a change in leadership style.

**EDITORIAL**

After his appointment in 1974 as head of the Manila Archbishopric, regarded as the seat of power of the Catholic hierarchy, Cardinal Sin launched the Church on a path of political interventionism not seen since 1949, when the leadership of the archdiocese was Filipinized with the appointment of Gabriel Reyes as archbishop of Manila, taking over from the American Michael O'Doherty.

Cardinal Sin took office two years after the installation of the dictatorship, with the martial law proclamation by President Marcos. The installation of Sin, as well as that of the dictatorship, was set in a period of profound political upheaval in the country, in which the martial law regime dismantled democracy.

Against this background of political change, Cardinal Sin saw as his secular mission, together with attending to the spiritual needs of the flock, shielding the people from the harsh and draconian edges of a repressive dictatorship.

These political circumstances provided the matrix of dynamic Church political interventionism highlighted by the pivotal role played by Cardinal Sin in two People Power movements which were mainly responsible for the toppling of two presidents in the span of 15 years—Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and Joseph Estrada in 2001. In the case of the toppling of Marcos, a dictatorship was dismounted, leading to the restoration of democratic structures and institutions. In the case of the fall of Estrada, People Power 2 translated into a popular force the nationwide unrest over Estrada's appalling corruption and incompetence in the management of the administrative affairs of the nation.

In both movements, the Church, with Sin's charismatic leadership and identification with issues on behalf of the democratic aspirations of the Filipino people, served as the center of political mass mobilization in the movement for leadership change.

In the spirit of the activist accent of Sin's leadership, the cardinal never hesitated to align the Church behind causes seeking political more than social reform. Although the two People Power movements stand out as the incandescent examples of the peak of Church influence in shaping the direction of Philippine politics, other Church interventions were less successful. The readiness of the Church to intervene in politics has aroused criticism that the Church was meddling too much and much too often in secular politics, often blurring boundaries separating the Church and State.

While the Church mobilization of the two People Power movements illustrated Sin's political shrewdness in crystallizing issues that were resonant with the people and that galvanized them behind Church's interventions, there were times when the people seemed fatigued from these frequent mobilizations.

Several of the Church's interventions were less successful, tell-tale signs that the Church was perhaps frittering away its resources. For example, Sin tried to throw the weight of the Church behind his opposition to the presidential candidacy of Gen. Fidel Ramos, probably because he was a Protestant and over certain moral issues. Despite the Church's opposition, Ramos won.

While Sin carried the Church behind his political activism, it seemed to have been insensitive to important social issues that have something to do with national development—in particular the issue of birth control in the midst of the galloping population explosion. On this social issue, the Church has tended to remain extremely conservative—and this conservatism has dimmed the luster of one of its missions—as the "Church of the poor."

As Sin recedes, the new Archbishop of Manila Gaudencio Rosales, faces new problems and a new context that require a different style and accent. However history will judge Sin's leadership, no one can say that he squandered any moment to act as an agent of change.

## Cops in police detachments undisciplined

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

THE SHAMEFUL police detachment at the Balintawak Clover Leaf in Quezon City shows the utter lack of supervision by their superiors. I don't think even one high-ranking police officer has visited that detachment. Otherwise, any sensible officer would have seen that it is disgraceful, a blot on the image of the Philippine National Police, and would have imposed disciplinary action against the chief of the detachment and its members.

There is a house and convenience store built beside the detachment's headquarters by extending the roof of the building. There are cages for fighting cocks, and laundry is hung out to dry around the center. Vendors ply their trade around it.

What is a police detachment for? So policemen can be near the areas under their jurisdictions at all times to prevent the commission of crimes and readily apprehend those who violate the laws. But here is a police detachment right in the midst—in fact, it is the nucleus—of a colony of violators. One of its primary duties is to remove and prevent the entry of vendors and squatters. Yet here they are sitting cheek by jowl with the squatters and illegal vendors they are supposed to arrest.

"What this police detachment unit now stands for is shameful and demoralizing," said Chair Bayani Fernando of the Metro Manila Development Authority, who visited the place. He said he would have it demolished and remove the vendors and squatters. He asked National Capital Region Police Director Reynaldo Velasco to relieve the station commander. "How could he let this happen?" Fernando asked.

I think mere relief of his command is too light a penalty for the station commander. Charges of dereliction of duty at least should be filed against him and the policemen under him.

This is just one instance that shows how much discipline in the PNP has deteriorated. I am sure similar things happen in other police detachments. Don't superior police officers like Velasco even bother to inspect them? The President does, the MMDA chief does, but apparently not high-ranking PNP officials.

* * *

Another police detachment that officials should visit unannounced is the police community precinct under the flyover at the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Tandang Sora in Quezon City.

Traffic there is terrible at all times. Commuters wait for rides in the middle of the street and buses and jeepneys load and unload there. There are "No Parking" signs on Tandang Sora but vehicles continue to park there. Jeepneys have made the street their terminal and park on both sides. Pedestrians, most of them students from several schools nearby, are forced to walk on the street where they run the risk of being sideswiped by passing vehicles. Jeepneys stop right beside the police station where they wait for passengers while barkers call for them.

A *carinderia* has been built over the creek at the corner, beside the 7-11 convenience store. When it rains, the corner is flooded, The flood stays for days after the rains stop.

Sidewalk vendors are everywhere.

All of this can be seen from the windows of the police community center. But the policemen in the center don't do anything. They don't tell the commuters where to wait for rides. They don't tell the bus and jeepney drivers where to load and unload (there are waiting sheds on both sides of Commonwealth). They don't stop vehicles from parking where it is not allowed. They don't tell jeepney drivers not to double-park. They don't tell the owner to remove his *carinderia* from above the creek. They don't report the flood to proper authorities. They don't tell the vendors to get off the sidewalks and the parking lots. When traffic gets all tied up, no policeman bothers to get out and untangle it.

So what is that police community center there for? I know it is a nice place for cops to relax and keep cool in (it is properly air-conditioned), and there are always many policemen there and the space under the flyover is always full of parked police vehicles. But is that the reason why the detachment was placed there using taxpayers' money? Aren't the police assigned there to enforce the laws at all times?

So please General Velasco, Chair Fernando, visit this detachment and tell the policemen there what they are supposed to do. It seems they don't know.

And to encourage the commuters to use the waiting sheds instead of the middle of the street, why don't you put concrete benches in them so they can sit down while waiting for their rides. And why not light them up at night? It's scary waiting there in the dark.

When the center was newly built, Mayor Feliciano Belmonte sent traffic enforcers there with loudspeakers and raised platforms to direct pedestrians and vehicles. There were big signs declaring "This is a traffic disciplinary zone." Everybody obeyed the laws and traffic rules, and the whole place was orderly.

But that phase was short-lived. The traffic enforcers were soon pulled out, for what reason the people were not told. Now anarchy is back in the place.

Oh, Mayor Belmonte, General Velasco, Chair Fernando, and yes, President Macapagal-Arroyo, where are you? We are inviting you to please visit us. By surprise, preferably.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: Fernando Poe Jr. to Erap: *Pare, ano ba ang* cell number *mo?*

Erap: *Lintik naman, pare, hindi pa ako* convicted *tinatanong mo na ang selda ko.*

## End of an era

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

IT is the end of an era. But it's not just because Jaime Cardinal Sin has retired. It is because two other towering figures of the Catholic Church have gone this year. One permanently: Bishop Antonio Fortich died at 89 last July 2 after battling disease. The other also by way of retirement: Bishop Julio Labayen gave up his prelature last month, after looking after it for more than 40 years. Fortich built a "church of the poor" in Bacolod, Labayen did so in Infanta.

I've never believed that everyone is dispensable and can always be replaced. Some people cannot. The ones above cannot. The Church will never be the same without them.

Of course, both Sin and Labayen can have the luxury of taking on the role Lee Kuan Yew does in Singapore, as spiritual adviser, in a far more literal sense. Retirement is not death, and even death, if we are to go by their beliefs is just the beginning of a new life. Retirement is just the beginning of a new phase, one that can be even more productive.

"Please remember me kindly," Sin asks of us. It is not hard to do, even if he is the lesser of the three. Certainly, we will remember him for exercising political astuteness, which enabled the Church to wield tremendous influence on the faithful, often for the good. Edsa was one of the good.

Truly, Sin was a pillar of strength for the anti-Marcos forces led by Cory after Ninoy's murder. He wasn't so before that; Labayen and Fortich were. But after Ninoy's death, Sin became a fierce critic of the regime, transforming the anti-Marcos struggle, though a very political one, into a morality tale, a battle between good and evil. He threw the Church's support behind Cory, and gave voice to the nation's anger. True enough, he was one of the chief architects of Edsa, far more than Fidel Ramos ever was. He was so not merely because he called on the faithful to flock at Edsa to defend Ramos and company, he was so in that he was there long before that, calling on the faithful to lay siege on the ramparts of tyranny. That was what made Edsa possible. That was what made the faithful faithful, and harken to his call.

We will remember him more kindly though if he would stop having an exaggerated sense of his contributions. Edsa II is not his. Of course, he has not explicitly claimed so, but he has done so implicitly. His spin doctors certainly have been attributing it to him, something he has not dissuaded—indeed, one suspects, with his blessings. I heard him talk at Edsa II, and there was franchise written all over his words. His call for the nation to flock to the Edsa Shrine once more, after rallies broke out spontaneously in various parts of the city when the Senate voted not to open the second envelope, was itself staking a claim to it. Amply proven by his and his protege Socrates Villegas' subsequent fulminations against the presumed deflement of the shrine by the unkempt and unshod.

Ah, but the Edsa Shrine is not his, or the Church's. It ceased to be so after the people turned it into a shrine with their tears. The Edsa Shrine is the people's. That is why we call what happened there "people power."

I will remember with more unadulterated kindness Bishops Fortich and Labayen. They're the ones who have given faith, particularly the Catholic one, new meaning, far from the oppressive, paternalistic and patronizing one it has been since the time of the friars. I've always been allergic to the words "shepherd" and "flock," notwithstanding that they appear in the Bible because they suggest that the faithful are sheep. Something Sin often takes literally, as when he tried to summon "people power" again and again after Edsa (among other things, to fight condoms) and failed.

Fortich and Labayen turned faith into a liberating force, and not just because they believed in and practiced Liberation Theology. They did so because they did not treat their flock as sheep. They treated them—the poorest of the poor, the wretched of the earth, the teeming masses gods and government truly take to be sheep—as human beings. As people capable of thinking for themselves and charting their own fate. The "poor" in "Church of the Poor" merely refers to the status in life of those for whom that church was built, it does not refer to their moral standing. They are far richer in spirit than those who belong to the Church of the Rich.

It is my monumental misfortune never to have personally met Fortich. But it is a testament to how well he lived his life that the community he served so keenly mourned his death. His life was dedicated to social work, much of it done in the deepest darkness of martial law, when to do so was to be subversive in the extreme. But if Fortich was subversive, he subverted more than just the tyranny of the state, he subverted the tyranny of mind that condemned the *sakada* and the migrant laborers into little more than society's dregs, to be thrown away like leavings after cane has been turned into sugar.

Labayen did the same thing for Infanta. Labayen I have met and I've caught a glimpse over the last three decades of the church he built, a church of farmers and fishers, the toilers of the earth and sea. Like Fortich he took care of his flock by not making them one, making them instead active agents of transformation, not least their own. I was there when he retired last month, the entire community turning out to say their goodbyes in fretful weather, the rains lashing down and the sun scorching the earth at rapid intervals. Many were in tears.

In the end, all of them, the Sin of Edsa I included, taught us one very vital lesson, a lesson known to Aesop who antedated Jesus Christ by six centuries:

God helps those who help themselves.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# GMA 'anointment' will show Lakas optimism

**POLITICAL TIDBITS**

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

THE CO-CHAIR of the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, Speaker Jose de Venecia, announced the other day that the ruling party's 400 member national directorate will meet on Oct. 7 to select the administration's standard-bearer and senatorial candidates for the May 2004 elections. He left little room for doubt that the directorate would choose President Macapagal-Arroyo, saying the party would request her to reconsider her Dec. 30, 2002 decision not to run. Other names, such as those of Eduardo Cojuangco and Raul Roco, are being thrown around as possible "popular" choices, too. But JDV says there's an "overwhelming sentiment" for the President to run because she's considered to be the most experienced and best-known Filipino leader abroad and her running would ensure continuity of her programs.

* * *

**JDV's announcement of the ruling party's grand Oct. 7 meeting, where GMA is expected to be "anointed," is not surprising. Washington sources say that high Bush administration officials have intimated that the US president prefers that when he arrives here on Oct. 18 for a 10-hour visit, the selection of GMA is already a fait accompli. While the ties between the two presidents appear to be still solid, Bush reportedly doesn't want to look like he's doing the "anointing." He is aware of the heavy overtones of his visit and does not want to be boxed in politically with GMA.**

* * *

The President is not expected to "accept" the presidential draft on Oct. 7 as she may wish to keep her options open a little bit longer. This is a wise move as it will enable her to buy time to make and assess the hard decision, but she cannot tarry too long. The question of whether a Lakas anointment of GMA by early October would help stabilize the country has to be carefully assessed. I suspect her advisers would want to weigh first the impact of the Bush visit and factors like Cojuangco, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, the military and the police and her acceptance ratings then. How to get the cooperation of Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition, the second biggest party, to support GMA will be a primordial concern.

* * *

**A Lakas anointment of GMA would show that it's confident that the fallout from the Jose Pidal controversy is manageable. One indication that the opposition is scared stiff of GMA even with the Pidal controversy is that it has not stopped nagging her that the only way the country would stabilize and tensions ease is for her to declare that she's not running. What this nagging indicates, aside from the admission that the opposition has the capacity to create destabilization, is that opposition politicians, like the Lakas members, realize that the candidate to beat is still GMA.**

**Will anointing her on Oct. 7 stabilize things? It could, and yet, it may also have the effect of drawing all the wasps out of their hive.**

* * *

Sen. Joker Arroyo and former Senate President Jovito R. Salonga have a deep friendship borne out of shared experiences in the past, especially during the martial law years when they both served as lawyers of Ninoy Aquino, and in the early Cory years. At the Guest House Joker would sometimes refer Salonga's phone call to President Cory by whispering in mock reverence, "It's God."

At the recent launch of Salonga's latest book, a collection of his speeches over a long public career that began in 1961, titled "The Intangibles that Make a Nation Great," Arroyo wryly noted that among the "four great men whose names resonate in the republic's history"—Ninoy Aquino, Lorenzo Tañada, Pepe Diokno and Jovito Salonga—only this physically slight man, who was maimed in Plaza Miranda and imprisoned by Marcos, is still around. Arroyo noted that history is written by "victors" but our history being what it is, Salonga is proud to be "among the defeated and it is his version of history that prevails."

* * *

**Heaping generous praises is unusual for the maverick senator. He stressed that the republic is fortunate to have Salonga as the chronicler of its recent history, "for truth is his second religion from which his devotion has no more wavered than it has with God." But these writings are more than just Salonga's version of history. Some of them "are the way he made history" where the landmarks were laid down by his bold, brave and penetrating rhetoric. To open his book, stressed Joker, is to be "in the protracted company of a fabulous personality and a noble spirit" who believed that history is "ultimately made by the mind rather than by the brute forces that sweep across it."**

* * *

Observing that Salonga "wrote the history he made and made the history he wrote," Arroyo cited some of those moments: when Salonga led the move to abrogate the RP-US bases agreement; his unwavering pursuit of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth "as if it were the moral equivalent of war; his mordant and caustic analyses of presidential plunder and the impeachment; and his outrage over the proclamation of martial law." Describing Salonga as among the "defeated," Arroyo pointed out that in this country that is "a noble distinction" inasmuch as "the race seems always to go to the swift and the battle to the strong." Salonga was among the "swift, the sly and the strong," Arroyo said, but he was in great company when he experienced defeat with the great men who died "without seeing the light of freedom." Happily, Salonga lived to see it, including "the waste that we have made of freedom." In that sense, Arroyo concluded, Salonga won—not the battle but the points he made, which were "almost all of them vindicated."

# '1081'—Never again to martial law

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

ALARMED at the findings of a recent survey that a sizable number of young people favor the declaration of martial law if only to arrest this country's slide into political chaos—and perhaps out of disgust at the antics of our so-called leaders—folks from the NGO community decided something had to be done to tell Pinoy youth the whole truth and nothing but about our martial law experience.

I guess anyone who was alive in the 1970's would find it hard grasping the idea Filipinos would ever favor the resurgence of military rule. After all, didn't we spend the better part of our lives fighting the regime, toppling it and making sure it would never again be resorted to? Well, it seems we neglected to tell our children's generation about what it was really like, since so many of them think it might be a good idea.

How to tell young people what martial law was all about, without turning them off and making them tune out? Speak their language. And for our *bagets*, as with *bagets* at any juncture in history, that language is the language of music.

Thus the concert called "1081—Rakrakan para sa Kalayaan." The concert, which is open to the public for free, will be held tomorrow, Friday, Sept. 19, starting at 6 p.m. at the Tower One and Exchange Plaza on Ayala Avenue, Makati.

The bands and artists who've agreed to take part in the concert come from both the martial law-era and the new, emerging cohort. I imagine they'll engage in something like a musical dialogue on what it means to have been young during the martial law years, and to be young in these days of drift and despair. Among them are: Aegis, Freddie Aguilar and Watawat, Apo Hiking Society, Heber Bartolome and Banyuhay, Cambio, Mike Hanopol, Leah Navarro, Radha, Silent Sanctuary, Sound, Sugarfree, Renz Verano and VJ Ala.

"1081" is a production of pagbabago@pilipinas, with the support of National Transmission Corp. (Transco), Peace and Equity Foundation, the City of Makati, "and other defenders of democracy." Concert director is Bart Guingona while the producer is none other than the indefatigable Leah Navarro.

See you at the PSE Tower One and Exchange Plaza tomorrow and let's relive memories of martial law—if only to remind ourselves why it should never again be necessary and why we should do all we can to see to it that we never go through it again.

* * *

INTERVIEWED by BBC Radio the other night, I was asked if I thought the new Archbishop of Manila, Lipa Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, would be as "political" as his predecessor, Jaime Cardinal Sin.

**I'm afraid my reply was rather long-winded to make for an effective sound bite, but in essence it was that the new "Shepherd" of Manila would only be as political or non-political as the environment would dictate.**

**Cardinal Sin became an outspoken critic of the martial law regime not solely out of personal preference. In fact, if my reading of the Cardinal is right, he would have preferred to remain the genial, humorous and open-hearted prelate he was when he was plucked out of obscurity in Iloilo and installed in the high-profile post of Archbishop of Manila.**

**But circumstances conspired to catapult the Cardinal into a political, and historical, figure. His "baptism" as a Marcos critic came as a consequence of the military raid on the Jesuit novitiate in Novaliches when troopers barged into a conference of church workers, without a warrant, and started arresting participants on suspicion of subversion. The Cardinal called a press conference to denounce this violation of church property and the rights of church personnel, and soon began to find himself speaking out for all other victims of martial law abuses.**

**Though he and other Philippine bishops had called for "critical collaboration" with the Marcos regime, Cardinal Sin—and the Philippine church in general—found that the Church was about the only remaining major institution in Philippine society that could "take on" the Marcoses without fear of retribution or persecution. And as Lito Zulueta wrote yesterday, the Cardinal wasn't alone in his politicization, as the rest of the Philippine hierarchy agreed with, if not actively pushed for, such nitty-gritty "engagement" with the secular world.**

* * *

IN ASSESSING the future role in national affairs of the new Archbishop of Manila, it's important to remember that Gaudencio Rosales was an auxiliary bishop of Manila during much of Cardinal Sin's early years in Manila.

Though not privy to his private thoughts, or even to what his private advice to the Cardinal might have been, we can at least assume that then Bishop Rosales supported the Cardinal's wading into political matters. He was also surely aware of the outcry against the human rights violations taking place during the Marcos regime, and of the heated debates among the Philippine bishops about the Church's "proper" relationship with the powers-that-be.

From what I recall of the days when I followed church affairs more closely, then Bishop Rosales was never counted among the conservatives—on either political or social issues. His reported support for environmental groups, especially an anti-logging campaign in Batangas, and his convening of a conference on the impact of globalization, would seem to indicate his leanings toward a Church militant. But he has never aligned himself with the outright leftist or Christian-Marxist wing of the Church, either.

If he must be classified, Archbishop Rosales would be a "moderate," preferring to take the middle road on public affairs. Would this indicate as well his own personal "moderation" when it comes to issues of social and personal significance, such as contraception and gay rights?

# Priest's rape victim speaks (2)

**HUMAN FACE**

*Ma. Ceres P. Doyo*

TERMINATE the pregnancy. The priest's words swirled in Minda's mind. She was pregnant, frightened and alone. The demands of her job were also weighing her down.

Minda could hardly cope. "I was terribly troubled and confused. Will I tell someone? Will I report to the authorities or just keep silent?"

Minda did consider filing a case in court against the priest who had drugged, raped and debased her with insults but she could not afford the cost. "I didn't think I could go through the process with all the fears in my mind," she said. "I would lose my freedom to move around for fear of my life. I wasn't ready for the humiliation and disgrace."

Because she held a high post in an academic institution, Minda felt she could not confide to anyone there. She wanted to quit her job but that would make Father CP feel triumphant, she thought. Minda decided to quit her graduate studies instead. During those months in 1998, her boss noticed that Minda was not doing well and told her so. Minda's salary for three months was withheld.

"I could not tell anybody for fear that the interreligious group that I was a part of would be destroyed," Minda confided. "I valued the group and the Christian unity. I did not want it be marred with scandal."

Terminate the pregnancy. The priest's words continued to hound her. Alone, Minda searched for a solution. She went to a place where many desperate women go: the herb and potion vendors who swear by their merchandise.

Minda told them she was helping a friend. In no time Minda was able to arrange for "home service" through a go-between. Minda was given a list of herbs and drugs (vitamins, pain killers, etc.) the "patient" was to take before the procedure. Minda left some money and an address.

That was July of 1998. Minda, three months pregnant, feigned illness and took a week's leave. No visitors for her, she said.

On the appointed day, a woman knocked on the door. "We hardly talked," Minda remembered. It was as if the two women avoided each other. It was their first time to meet, There were just the two of them and they did not know each other's name.

The procedure began. Minda shut her eyes and braced herself for the intrusion. Wordlessly, the woman dug into Minda's womb to scoop out its contents.

The bloody details are better left undescribed. Suffice it to say that Minda survived even as a fledgling life was cut short. But more pain was yet to come.

"It is done," Minda gravely told Father CP when he came a few days after that. She handed him a letter expressing her disgust and rage, for the betrayal of her trust.

He read it, laughed and burned it in the sink. "Let us pray," he invited Minda. "We are ready for love but not ready for life."

Minda shot back: "That was not love, that was abuse." She wept at his mockery.

"Much later, after much reflection and prayer, I received strength," Minda said. "I took the Bible's advice to settle this with the elders." Minda sought the help of Father GT, a Catholic priest, so she could see her abuser's bishop.

The bishop knew Minda. He listened and believed her. "When the bishop appealed to me not to bring the case to court to save the Church I felt a great relief," Minda narrated. "But when he added that if I brought this to court it would be the end of (the interreligious group that both Minda and Father CP belong to) I felt so dismayed. I did not want this to happen to the group. That is why I wanted justice through the bishop."

Minda made known her demands : that Father CP be removed from his position and subjected to disciplinary action. The bishop kept saying the word "reparation."

"But this is beyond reparation, Bishop," Minda argued. "*Buhay ang nakalas.*" (A life had been snuffed out.) She brought up the abortion.

The bishop was stunned. He stood up and had Father CP called right away.

"I did it out of love and care," Father CP protested. "No it was an abuse, a betrayal of my trust," Minda cried.

Father CP gave the bishop his version ("*Naglisud pa gani ako*"—he merely worked himself up.) He used the "M" word. (In journalism, we say *SS* or *sariling sikap* when referring to someone belaboring a story.)

Well, Minda who had gone limp after being forced to eat spiked jelly roll that night in April 1998 was conscious enough to know the priest had ravaged her again and again (described in last week's column).

The bishop brought the two to the oratory for further discussion. "There," the bishop told Minda, "Father has owned up before the Blessed Sacrament."

A Protestant, Minda asked, "Bishop, what's Blessed Sacrament?"

"Would it appease you if I transferred Father CP?" the bishop asked Minda. He asked that question in 1998 and that was the end of it.

In fact, Minda would like to see Father CP kicked out of the priesthood. Meanwhile, the priest continues to enjoy a plum post while Minda no longer holds a post in the interreligious group where they both served. So far, no written apology has been made. As the bishop supposedly said, "*Wala man* written-written."

Minda is no longer alone. Brave women of prayer are backing her. Credible people in the know have something to say about Father CP's character, "*U C balasubas,*" texted a nun. Someone e-mailed to say he knew about the case. He was hurting, damning the "Padre Damasos" for he was himself an offspring... "Read me please, between the lines, let me bury the pangs alone," he wrote.

Let me state here that I care for this Church that Jesus built upon rock and I wish it to be cleansed, to be just and compassionate toward women as Jesus was.

This story does not end here. Awaiting the bishop's move.

* * *

*Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph*

# Being there

**YOUNG BLOOD**

*Ellen Joy C. Evangelista*

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.*

HOW do you comfort someone who is grieving over the loss of her mother?

This was the question that immediately came to my mind as I hugged my best friend in the hospital. Her mother had had an aneurysm and gone into coma. The following night she was dead. Everything happened so fast, and I knew that this made it even harder for my best friend and her family.

I want to share her pain, ease her loneliness, and make everything all right for her but I do not have the power to do so. It kills me that I am feeling so helpless. I know there is nothing I or anyone among our friends can do to take away her suffering. So I ask again: How do you comfort someone who is mourning over the death of her beloved mother? I would surely like to know so I can do something for my best friend.

I have known Carla since I was 11. We grew up together. In grade school, we were constantly together since we were in the same *barkada*.

Nothing changed in high school. In fact, we became closer. We were classmates in 1st year, 2nd year and 4th year. If she hadn't been assigned to the honor's section when we were in 3rd year, I bet we would have ended up in the same class.

We were inseparable. People always teased us because wherever I went, she would surely be there, too.

We were like sisters. I was always at their house. We had sleepovers countless times. Her sisters became like my sisters and her family became like my second family.

Every time I slept over, her youngest sister would give me her bed because that was the one connected to Carla's. Every morning, her mom would come in and ask me if I had slept well. She was always very warm. Never did she make me feel like a stranger in their home. She treated me like I was part of their family.

For years, I felt the warmth of Tita every time I was in their house. It saddens me to know that I will never experience it again.

I remember that the last time I was at their house, another friend and I ate lunch with Carla and her family. Tita was teasing us about our being "Meteor Garden" fanatics. We were eating while she was cooking more food.

When we stood up to leave, she was still in the kitchen. She told us not to kiss her goodbye because she said she was smelling like the food she was cooking. I am glad we still kissed her because that turned out to be the last time we could do so.

It's only been a few days since Tita passed away. And I am also grieving for the loss of one of the greatest mothers I have ever known. I always admired her for being the kind of mother she was to her children. I thank her because if it weren't for her, I wouldn't have had the best friend I have right now.

Carla has always been there for me. She had stood by me through everything, from family problems, fights and heartaches. All those times I needed her, she was there. She shared my woes, my insecurities and my loneliness. And among all the things we have shared in the past, this is one thing I would like to share with her.

It is my turn now. I would like to share her pain, her tears, her mourning even if I do not know how to go about it. I know that I can never understand how painful this is for her because it wasn't I who lost a mother. No matter how we all try to sympathize, we can never come close to feeling how she really feels.

That's why I find it hard to comfort her. I don't know what words to say which might make her feel even just a little bit better. I remember that when Carla sent me a text message saying that Tita was gone, I almost went crazy thinking of how I should react. I wanted to call her but I knew she wouldn't be able to talk. I decided to text her instead, but somehow the words I wrote just didn't sound right.

This made me wonder: If I were in her shoes, what would I want my friends to say? How do I want my friends to act? What are the words I would want to hear at this time when I am hurting so much?

Maybe we don't really have to say anything. Maybe we should just let things be. I think the best way to comfort my best friend is simply by being there for her. I don't have to say anything. I'll just stay by her side and let her cry if she wants to. What's important is she knows she's not alone because I am there and we will all be there.

It's hard to see the people you love suffer. And it doesn't help to know there is nothing you can do to ease their pain. Death is one of those events when one feels helpless about keeping a friend from hurting. It is inevitable. I do not know what I can do or what words I can say to help her. All I know is that I will be there for her because this is one of those times when no amount of words can ever relieve the pain.

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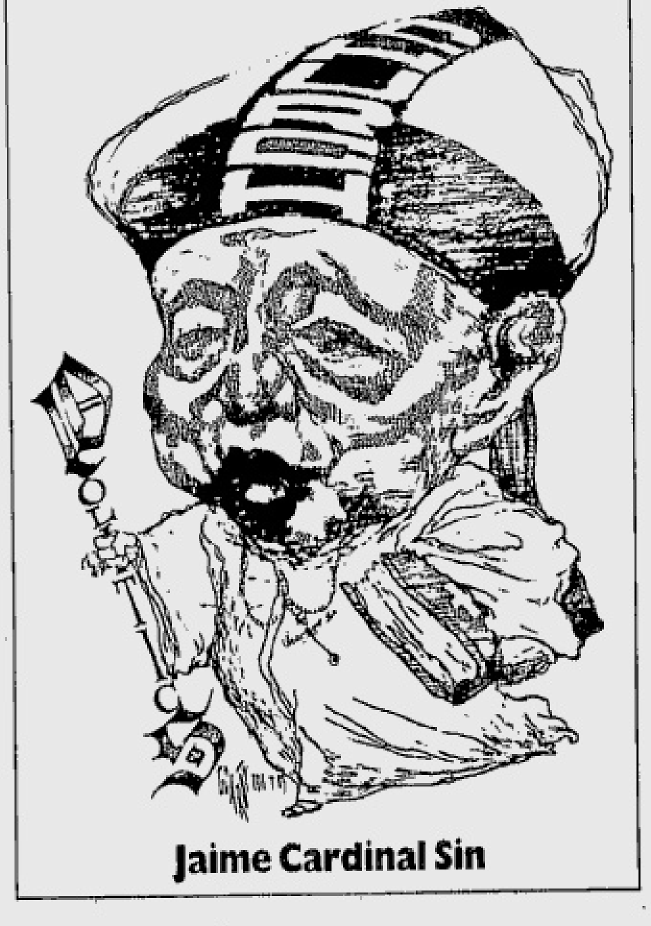
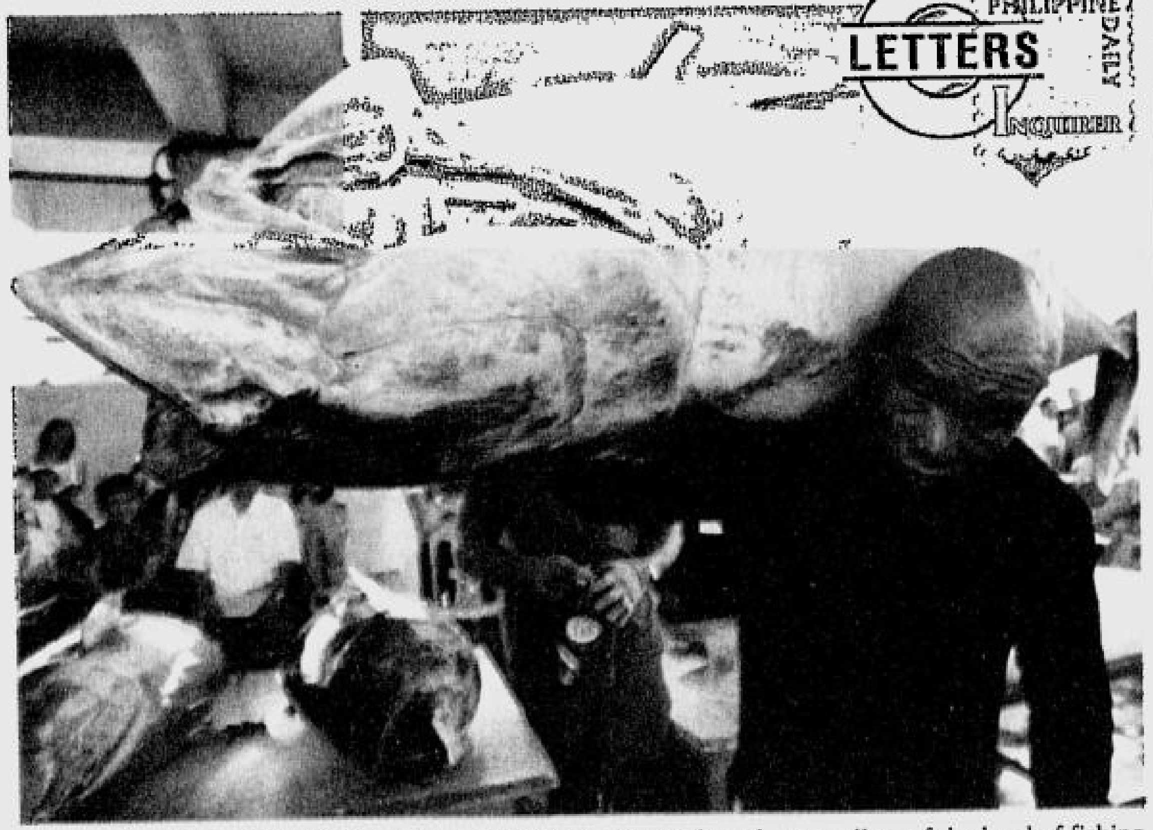
*Ellen Joy C. Evangelista, 19, is an Integrated Marketing Communications junior at the University of Asia and the Pacific. She wrote the article as a gift to Carla who is celebrating her birthday this week.*

**IN THE NEWS**



Jaime Cardinal Sin

# Sustainability of Philippine tuna stocks



WE are concerned by the news that foreign firms are interested in investing in the local tuna industry. (PDI, 9/5/03) It is not that the firms are foreign, it is because increasing investments mean increasing exploitation of the tuna stocks in a situation where no effective resource management program exists to regulate tuna fishing.

So far, the Department of Agriculture (DA) has not yet begun its promised biological research on the tuna stocks, which is necessary to come up with reliable estimates of the maximum sustainable yield (i.e., the maximum volume of tuna catch that can be allowed without affecting the capacity of the tuna stocks to regenerate). Such researches are also necessary to develop effective fishing regulation methods that will ensure that the total fish catch does not exceed maximum sustainable yield.

Why should the DA allow more investors into the local tuna industry without establishing even the necessary biological database? And yet, this is just the first step in ensuring the sustainability of the tuna stocks. After conducting the research, the DA and other stakeholders in the tuna industry must come together to plan effective and appropriate fish catch regulations and other means to conserve the tuna stocks. If enabling laws are needed, these must be legislated in the local legislative bodies. Then participatory law enforcement mechanisms must be put in place. All these should have been conducted by the government with the same zeal and determination that it showed in securing lower tariffs for our canned tuna in the European market last June. After all, sustainability is the issue here.

But instead, all that the government seems concerned about is getting more investments and market access for tuna, while doing nothing but make a lot of noise so far about the need to regulate tuna fishing. Now this is a sure recipe for future disaster. Increasing tuna investments and market access will result in corresponding increases in tuna fishing. Without fishing regulation, the total fish catch will one day exceed the limits of maximum sustainable yield. When that happens, tuna production will begin to decline irreversibly, regardless of the level of fishing effort. And in the end, the tuna stocks will be completely depleted. This pattern of resource exploitation and depletion in fisheries has already happened in Canada and Norway. Let us not repeat it here.

**—JAIME ESCOBER JR.,**
**publications editor,**
**Tambuyog Development Center,**
**91 V. Luna Road Extension,**
**Sikatuna Village, Quezon City**

## Protest against violent dispersal of WTO protesters

WE, the National Network of Agrarian Reform Advocates, condemn the violent dispersal of the more than 500 peasants and workers who tried to march through downtown Manila to Mendiola.

The protesters have suffered the effects of World Trade Organization agreements. Millions of them have fallen into greater misery as a result of undue competition from imports, increasing production costs, increasing landlessness, and oppression by the landlord class.

They only wanted to expose the fundamental defects of the WTO, the immense injustice of pitting industrial countries against backward economies like the Philippines.

Instead of increasing employment by 500,000 a year, as projected by the government, the WTO brought down the number of agricultural jobs from 11.29 million in 1994 to 10.85 million in 2001. Since 1994, over a million jobs have been lost in agriculture and 690,000 more rural families have been thrown into poverty.

The Agreement on Agriculture (AOA) only worsened the gap in the country's balance of trade. In 1997, for instance, agricultural trade deficit was $764 million. By 2002, the deficit had reached $794 million. Rice imports increased by 540 percent, making the country a net food importer with an accumulated agricultural trade deficit of $3.5 billion in 1995-1999.

In 1996, crop production grew 11 percent but plunged to one percent in 1997. In March 1999, crop production shrank further by 6 percent, the worst since 1995. Agricultural production per capita at the end of the 1990s had fallen to levels lower than at the end of the 1970s, mainly due to liberalization and inadequate government support since the 1980s. Average annual growth in GVA of agriculture and fisheries shrank to 1.9 percent in 1995-1999 from 2.2 percent in 1980 to 1994. As productivity plummets, the country's food security is seriously put at risk.

In the face of the devastating effects of globalization, nations have the right to demand a halt to its continuing rampage as it rides on the back of institutions, like the WTO and other multilateral bodies that impose policies of liberalization, privatization and deregulation.

Moreover, genuine land reform must be implemented to address peasant landlessness and monopolistic control of landlords and their foreign partners. To increase productivity, government must provide subsidies and other support measures including credit, marketing and infrastructure. Instead of being content with the so-called safety nets and the futile fight for "balance" in the WTO, the government owes it to the Filipino people to get out of the accords that are inimical to the country's social and economic agenda.

We fully support the farmers' fight for genuine agrarian reform and the workers' demand for nationalist industrialization.

**—SR. ELENITA BELARDEO, RGS,**
**spokesperson,**
**National Network of Agrarian**
**Reform Advocates, Good**
**Shepherd Convent, Quezon City**

## Rosaries, not guns, for the barangay chiefs

AS a concerned citizen, I vehemently oppose the proposal of Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane to arm the 47,000 barangay heads in the Philippines with guns on the pretext that such measure would be of great help in curbing, if not totally eradicating, criminality in our country.

Instead of arming the barangay chairmen with guns, why not give them rosaries so they could implore the aid of the Divine Providence in maintaining peace and order in their respective barangays?

Guns tucked in the waist of notorious, power-hungry and arrogant barangay captains pose a danger to constituents. On the other hand, with rosaries in their pockets, they will be enlightened and assured of graces and indulgences in enforcing the law.

**—MELY ENRIQUEZ-ROSARIO,**
**AdPrint Services Inc., Bangkal,**
**Makati City**

## Pedestrians find Quezon Avenue risky to cross

I WOULD like to address this to the MMDA authorities. Firstly, I do want to encourage them in their efforts to exhaust all ways possible to improve the traffic situation, their latest being the cancellation of the use of intersections along Quezon Avenue.

But their efforts would be so much more efficient and long lasting if they could think through these changes to the last detail. With this new traffic modification, the pedestrians are left without any safety in crossing the street. We literally risk our lives each time we try to cross Quezon Avenue since vehicles don't stop anymore even if the light turns red. There are actually some traffic aides who try to ease the traffic flow but they do not help pedestrians cross the street. Pedestrians are finding that crossing Quezon Avenue is getting too risky. Accidents are not far from happening.

**—HERMINIA F. GABUTINA,**
**M. Cuenco Street,**
**Sta. Mesa Heights,**
**Quezon City**

## America is not racist

THE AUG. 28 INQUIRER article regarding the deportations of Filipinos by the US unfairly painted America's immigration policies as "racist." A certain Poe Gratela called it "blatant scapegoating," and INQUIRER reporter Gerald Lacuarta used the word "racist" to define America's enforcement of its immigration policies. It is not racist: The law is the LAW; no more, no less.

TNTs—a polite term for illegal aliens who knowingly violate their American hosts' rules—have no excuses. Several million Filipinos have immigrated the right and legal way; why should their hard work and respect for America's immigration regulations be trodded upon by TNTs?

The INQUIRER regularly prints stories about overstaying and undesirable aliens who are arrested, detained for long stretches and then deported from the Philippines without lengthy court proceedings. Such is the Philippines' right to enforce its laws.

I see no militant groups here sticking up for the many foreigners who are languishing in the detention facility of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation. Only when overstaying TNTs are held accountable through deportation do militants and others scream. Not a peep do I hear when Americans are deported. One-sided, indeed.

Is the militants' self-professed anti-American policy "racist"? Hardly; it's merely a double standard held by the militants.

Americans and Filipinos all expect their laws to be obeyed and enforced fairly without regard to skin, color or nationality. We must each obey our host nations' laws; after all, I choose to live here legally, and immigration is the sincerest form of flattery.

**—WES WRIGHT,**
**Angeles City Pampanga**

## Limited choices

I HAVE to hand it to Mr. Panfilo Lacson. He has yet again succeeded in making stooges of the senators to do his biddings. Like a conjurer, he slyly produces with a sleight of hand spurious "evidence" to sling mud at his political enemies and then effectively transforms the Senate into his own stage of political circus. His own senatorial colleagues in the opposition— Pimentel, Sotto, Angara, Biazon, Estrada, Oreta and the two Osmeñas—have been reduced into his pathetic lapdogs panting at his every word, salivating at his every move. And while cleverly throwing a luscious bone of a scandal in the Senate, he has at the same time achieved to shun aside the pending accusations against him in the Senate.

Truly, Lacson is smarter than the others. I must take my hat off for him for his subtlety and craftiness. He is indeed Machiavelli's prince. One cannot help but admire his political adroitness, malicious as it may seem. But in our culture, malice is not a sin.

And compare him to that other mischievous senator, Mr. Gringo Honasan, whose stubborn military mind is set firmly to the doctrine that might is right, whose only solution is brute force. A coup. The arrogant show of force. A Rambo with a boyish face and impish grin that every mother would love.

But make no mistake about it. This partnership of derring-do is potently parlous. Both have the guile to mesmerize not only the *masa*, but also the elite opportunists in our society. Their support, whatever the motivation may be, is formidable. Even the devil has his attractions. And our government, past and present, has never been peopled with angels.

But what is really sad with our politics is at the end of the day, come election time, our choices are confined to those same venal politicians, limited to who is the lesser evil. And we ultimately end up with the worst.

This must also be our fault.

**—JUN PASIMIO,**
**BF Homes, Parañaque City**

## 'Do Nothing Senate'

PRESIDENT Harry Truman, after finishing the term of the late President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the late 1940s, ran for election as president seeking his own mandate. Important and urgent bills were piling up, but the Congress of the United States sat and did not act on them. He mounted the campaign trail and told the people that Congress was doing nothing about his proposals. Exasperated, Truman branded Congress as a "Do Nothing Congress." Subsequently, he won, beating George Dewey, who was the favorite to win the election, in what was called the greatest electoral upset in US history.

A similar situation is happening in our Congress. The Senate is immersed in investigations, grandstanding, character assassinations, and other shenanigans. The important and urgent bills passed by the House of Representatives are gathering dust and cobwebs in the Senate. Among others, is the Charter change that needs to be acted on now.

In recent surveys, a popular media personality has consistently emerged at the top of the list of presidentiables. Recent history might repeat itself.

Exasperated, some people jokingly say that perhaps the SARS virus might do some good in the Senate. Our country is suffering and in misery because our politicians spend their precious time and the people's money in useless bickerings and investigations in aid of election, as many people believe. God save our country from the Senate.

**—CELESTINO P. TANGONAN,**
**2613 Molave St., United Hills Vill.,**
**Parañaque City.**

# Greed and hunger

## PINOY KASI

*Michael L. Tan*

A FEW years back when we were debating on whether or not to join the World Trade Organization (WTO), our political leaders, especially Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, promised us that WTO membership was the way to economic development. With the WTO and free trade, we were told, our products could finally enter previously impenetrable markets of developed countries.

These free trade evangelists never spoke of the other half of the equation, and this was how we had to agree to go full blast with import liberalization, allowing the world's products to come into the country.

What has happened since then? We're now flooded with imports, especially food items. The fruits we used to associate with Christmas imports—apples and pears and oranges—are now available all year round, together with everything else a gourmet cook would need, from lamb chops to portobello mushrooms. And wonder of wonders, these products are often cheaper than local agricultural produce.

It's tempting, as we look at our supermarket shelves stocked with these cheap imported products, to believe that all this is due to our technologically backward agriculture. Back in college I had an American professor who kept boasting that only 4 percent of the American population was involved in agriculture and yet, in his words, "We are able to feed the world." I used to get really depressed, thinking of the situation in the Philippines, with, at that time, more than half of the population in agriculture and yet unable to feed our own population.

The recently concluded (WTO) conference in Cancun reminds us that the situation is a bit more complex. The meeting, which ended in failure, involved acrimonious debates around American and European government subsidies for agriculture, amounting to some $300 billion a year in Europe alone, and about $27 billion a year in the United States.

We lose to those subsidies in two ways. Because their production is subsidized, American and European farmers can export cheaply, their products flooding our markets and displacing our own agricultural sector. On the other hand, Third World agricultural producers who try to go into export products find that they can't penetrate the developed world's markets because even with our cheap labor, the cost of production is still much too high. Oxfam, an international non-government organization, estimates that Third World agricultural producers lose some $200 billion a year because of trade barriers, including subsidies, put up by the rich countries.

At Cancun, developing countries appealed for a reduction, if not abolition, of these subsidies but the rich countries stood their ground, refusing to negotiate on the subsidies. Not only that, they called on developing countries to further liberalize policies on imports and on foreign investments.

No wonder one Chinese journalist, guesting on a BBC talk show, finally couldn't restrain herself as the discussions focused on WTO. "Greed, that's all there is to it," she proclaimed, adding rather boldly that greed was also behind the US-UK invasion of Iraq and so many other aspects of the developed countries' foreign policy these days.

Where does the Philippine government stand on all this? The President seems to have been born again, hailing the formation of the "Cancun 20," an alliance of developing countries demanding "justice and fairness" (her words) from the richer nations.

But it will not be enough for our officials to talk about justice in international forums. The fact is that the government has neglected our agricultural sector, failing to develop our own resources. Successive administrations have favored large agribusiness, neglecting small farmers and livestock producers. We've emphasized so-called high-yielding seed varieties that are terribly dependent on imported fertilizers and pesticides. Now we are falling for the false promises that come with genetically modified (GM) crops. Besides the environmental and public health questions around GM crops, we're forgetting there's again a trade issue here: adopting these GM crops would further aggravate our already crippling dependence on multinational agribusiness companies, for the seeds as well as for other inputs.

We shouldn't forget, too, that the issue isn't just one of subsidized agricultural products being dumped here. Australian products, which are not subsidized, also find their way into the Philippines, together with products from neighboring Third World countries, notably China and Thailand.

It's worthwhile looking at the experiences of those two countries, whose governments prioritized agricultural development in terms of technologies, farm-to-market roads and other infrastructure requirements. The two countries developed their agriculture with the primary objective of meeting the needs of their own citizens, with exports coming later.

In contrast, even before we could feed our own people, we began to dream of exporting our mangoes, our prawns and other agricultural produce to developed countries. That didn't work out because our exporters had to deal with all kinds of strict requirements concerning food safety and agricultural pests.

Our food exports remain paltry even as we increase our imports, at the cost of further impoverishing our agricultural sector. Today, even *galunggong*, the so-called poor man's protein, has become too expensive for many Filipinos. At the rate we're going, a typical "Filipino" meal will soon become a bowl of instant noodles (made from imported flour) flavored with monosodium glutamate (also imported). There couldn't be a more depressing example of losing on all fronts.

* * *

This has nothing to do, at least not directly, with food but I'd like to plug a special documentary, "Walang Bakas," about martial law and state violence, produced by GMA-7 and to be aired this Sunday, Sept. 21, at 9 p.m.

## Fire trees, golden shower trees to boost tourism

IF Japan is known for its cherry blossoms, the Philippines has the *caballero* or fire trees and golden shower trees. I believe these flowering trees are more beautiful and attractive than the cherry blossoms if planted on our highways and parks in great quantities. At present, our fire trees and golden shower trees are only planted on isolated yards and places so they don't attract much attention. Planting more fire trees and golden shower trees will greatly boost out tourism industry and beautify the Philippines.

**—JULIAN MALONSO,**
**92 New York St.,**
**Cubao, Quezon City**

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**ANTITERROR**

DENNIS SABANGAN/EPA

US Marines unload their weapons upon landing at the Subic port Sept. 14 to prepare for amphibious military exercises with Filipino soldiers in three areas. At least 1,500 US Marines are now in the country.

## Corruption watchdog says gov't not ready for Marcos wealth trial

BAGUIO CITY—A group of young professionals said the government, while pursuing the forfeiture case against the Marcoses for the past 15 years, is still not prepared to go to trial.

The Young Professionals for Good Government, in a statement, said even if the Supreme Court ruled last July 15 that the money being held in escrow at the Philippine National Bank comprised part of the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcos family, the case is still not over.

The YPGG was established in 1998 in Metro Manila as a corruption watchdog. It is composed of about 500 students and professionals mostly based in Metro Manila and Northern Luzon.

The YPGG said had the government's legal team gone into trial, there would be no reason for Judge Manuel Real of the Hawaii District Court to come up with an order stopping the transfer of the $683-million Marcos account to the Philippine government.

Richard Burgos, YPGG spokesperson, claimed that the government does not have evidence on how much ill-gotten wealth the Marcoses had in 1986 when they fled the country.

"Among the tons and tons of documents that the government submitted in court, there is not a single piece of evidence that shows when these deposits (Swiss bank funds) were actually made and where they originated from," Burgos said in the statement.

"All they have are articles of incorporations from various foundations; sporadic transfers of funds from one Swiss bank to another, summary reports and the like. None of these remotely show the exact date when these accounts were first opened."

The YPGG claimed that neither the Presidential Commission on Good Government nor the PNB could determine in 1995 the exact amount to be placed in escrow. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# DENR: State owns minerals beneath soil

**BAGUIO CITY—The government has resolved what the Supreme Court could not: Prescribe what natural resources indigenous Filipinos can actually own under the 1987 Constitution.**

Horacio Ramos, director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), said a memorandum of agreement between Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun and Secretary Teresita Deles, lead convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), recognizes the indigenous peoples' rights over all natural resources on Philippine soil.

The memorandum, which has yet to be released, honors the provisions inscribed by the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997, Ramos said.

But only the state has proprietary rights over the mineral resources found beneath the soil, he pointed out.

Ramos advised mine industry stakeholders about the upcoming agreement during the Luzon leg of a national review conference for the proposed executive order on a National Minerals Policy (NMP).

The Philippine Chamber of Mines has backed a Supreme Court petition, filed in 1997 by former Justice Isagani Cruz, which challenges Ipra's constitutionality because of a provision granting indigenous Filipinos unquestioned control over the natural resources found within their ancestral domain.

Cruz said Ipra violates the Regalian Doctrine, which grants only to the state full ownership over its territory's natural resources and the right to exploit these assets.

But the high court virtually affirmed both the Regalian Doctrine and Ipra when it junked Cruz's complaint on a technicality. The tribunal could not break a tie among the justices who favored Ipra and the justices who disapproved Ipra's substance.

"The government needed a (solution) to the issue because various industries required a clear cut rule on natural resource rights. So (Gozun and Deles) agreed to divide it evenly. The (indigenous Filipinos) own the top half of the land, while the government owns what is beneath the land," Ramos said.

"There are other details, which both the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (which is supervised by Deles), need to work out. But this was the core agreement," he added.

Mine industry representatives had objected to the Ipra because it increased the odds against a mining firm's entry into ancestral lands for mine prospecting, an industry source said.

A quarter of the mine claims applied for in 1999 crossed into ancestral lands or ancestral domain claims made by several communities in the Cordillera and in Mindanao, the INQUIRER learned.

"The (indigenous Filipinos) still retain their preferential rights over minerals located beneath their ancestral domain. That was something we worked to preserve (in the new Cabinet-level agreement). Of course, this means we will follow the process of requiring the tribe's FPIC (Free and Prior Informed Consent)," said Ramos. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

## Environmentalists gather signatures to press for Davao watershed shields

DAVAO CITY—Environmental groups are gathering 5,000 signatures to press the city council and the three Davao congressional representatives to push for a law to protect and preserve watersheds and regulate activities in these protected areas.

The Water Management Coordinating Council (WMCC), which is composed of environmental groups, has identified the Talomo River Watershed, Lipadas River Watershed, Davao River Watershed and the Malagos Watershed as the four environmentally-critical areas in the city.

Norma Javellana, program coordinator of the Interface Development Interventions, said the signature campaign started last week.

The campaign is aimed at gathering support from other sectors for the protection of the city's watershed areas.

WMCC intensified its campaign to protect the city's watershed areas after studies showed that the Talomo-Lipadas rivers have high lead content.

The Davao River is also high in lead content. Its condition is aggravated by high coliform content.

Javellana said the signatures will be submitted to the city council's Committee on Environment and Natural Resources chaired by Councilor Beethoven Orcullo to press the legislators to heed the call of barangay officials of Daliaon to stop the operations of a banana plantation there.

Another pending resolution is on the petition of the groups to stop the expansion of banana plantations in the watershed areas and the Mt. Apo natural park.

*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## Pope to send representative to church meet

ANGELES CITY—Pope John Paul II will send Archbishop Francesco Marchisano as his representative to the third biennial National Convention of Church Cultural Heritage Workers at the Holy Angel University here from Sept. 29 to Oct. 1.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, the convention's sponsor, confirmed the attendance of Marchisano for the Holy See, according to Robby Tantingco, director of HAU's Center for Kapampangan Studies.

Marchisano is president of the pontifical commission for the cultural heritage of the church and vicar general of the Vatican.

The archdiocese of San Fernando, Pampanga, and the HAU, the first Catholic university administered by laymen, are cohosting the convention where more than 100 delegates are expected to attend.

Among the papers that will be presented in the three-day convention are "The Four Philippine Baroque Churches: Implications for Church Administrators" by architect Augusto Villalon; "The 19th Century Secular Clergy and the Building of Churches" by Prof. Regalado Trota Jose; and "When Do We Change a Retablo? Reconciling Church Heritage with Present Church Legislation" by Dom Bernardo Ma. Perez, OSB.

Also to be presented are papers on "The Legal Aspects of Town Planning and Historical Restoration" by lawyer Asteya Santiago, and the "Philippine State Laws on Built Cultural Heritage: Legal Implications for Church Administrators and Managers" by lawyer Rose Beatriz Angeles.

Tantingco said the delegates would have a tour of churches in Betis (Guagua), Sasmuan, Lubao, Minalin and Sto. Tomas towns in Pampanga. They will also visit the archdiocesan museum at the University of the Assumption in the City of San Fernando. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

## *Diwalwal no longer 'wild, wild west' of RP, says village chief*

DAVAO CITY—The gold-rich Mt. Diwalwal has ceased to be the "wild wild west" of the country.

The area is now fast becoming an engine of economic growth in Compostela Valley after the government takeover in August last year, a leader of a miners' group said.

Franco Tito, also village chair of Diwalwal, said in the old days, armed miners were a normal sight because nobody knew who would end up dead for the day.

But he said they laid down their firearms since last year because peace has finally descended on the erstwhile violence-prone area.

When the government took over the mining area, the military and the police deployed a sizeable contingent.

A firearms ban was also implemented in the area.

Tito recalled that he used to have 40 high-powered firearms to protect his interests.

As Mayor Rodrigo Duterte once said, "the man who holds the gun, holds the day" in Diwalwal.

"There are no more bickering," Tito said in reiterating why miners laid down their firearms.

Ralph Basa, general manager of Compostela Province Federation of Mining Cooperatives, confirmed Tito's statements.

He said miners were no longer threatened by the prospects of losing their tunnels.

"The government intervention has diffused the power of the big miners. Today, everybody is happy," Basa said.

Basa conceded that miners could not still claim they have regained the glory of the early 1980's, when a day's income from digging for gold ore was more than enough to feed a family.

But he said that since peace descended on the troubled area, little signs of the improvement in the lives of the miners are becoming visible.

These include their ability to send back their children to school and a notable increase in the number of enterprises in the area.

"The people's buying capability has improved. With an average of four to five bags of ore a day—we have become comfortable," Basa said.

Tito said miners are now able to pay environmental fees to the local government of Monkayo.

He said since last year, miners have remitted at least P4 million in fees to the government.

Tito also said the production of miners has been steadily increasing because of the absence of violence.

Diwalwal has already produced 40,795.30 grams of gold from October last year until the present.

"And the good thing here is we are producing without the use of explosives," he said.

Tito said the daily ore production ranges from 80 to 100 tons per day in at least four mining areas.

He said the national government has also been benefiting from the increasing gold production.

Since October last year, the government's share from gold bullion sold to the Central Bank has reached P23.17 million.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said the reserves of Diwalwal would still be able to transform more lives.

As of January 2003, MGB said the area's ore reserve was still 10.18 tons, which is roughly equivalent to 3 million ounces of gold. *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
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# Batangas folk sad to let Rosales go

BISHOP GAUDENCIO ROSALES

**By Mei Magsino**
*Lipa City*

AT EXACTLY 6 p.m., Msgr. Alfredo Madlangbayan, the vicar general of the Archdiocese of Lipa, read the letter from the Vatican that delighted the Lipeños who were attending Mass for the Our Lady of Sorrows at the San Sebastian Cathedral in the heart of the city on Monday.

"A while ago, I told you that we will tell you the reason why we are all here," Madlangbayan said, referring to the presence of all the high-ranking priests in Batangas who were officiating the Mass with him.

"Pope John Paul II has accepted the resignation of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and has appointed our Most Rev. Gaudencio Rosales, archbishop of Lipa City in Batangas province for the past 10 years, as the new archbishop of Manila," he read, to the applause of the audience.

The announcement was broadcast live over FM radios in the province, while text messages spread the news.

But Fr. Jonas Palmares, chancellor of the archdiocese, said Rosales must return to Lipa as its archbishop when he flies home from the Vatican on Oct. 8.

"He still has to come here and attend to his duties while looking for someone to fill the position he will leave behind. For now, the officer in charge of the archdiocese is Monsignor Madlangbayan," said Palmares, who is also Rosales' secretary.

Not all of Lipa rejoiced when they heard the news, he said.

## Lipa's loss

"*Medyo nanghihinayang kami kasi kami ang inagawan ng* archbishop (We feel reluctant because our archbishop was taken away)," Palmares said.

All the priests were in the Laforce Seminary in Marauoy, Lipa when they received a phone call from Manila at 11 a.m. They were told that a fax message would be sent at 3 p.m. with strict orders to open it and issue a public announcement at 6 p.m., Palmares revealed.

The announcement that Rosales was the most likely candidate to become the country's next cardinal was met with mixed emotions among the people of Lipa.

Palmares said that at first, they felt a loss when they realized that Rosales would be leaving them. "But the pride of having him as the next cardinal comes second. We're all so proud of him."

"He will be the first Batangueño cardinal, and as Batangueños, we take pride in that," Palmares said.

Sr. Elsa Belen, the archbishop's secretary for seven years in the Bahay ng Obispo (Bishop's home), said she was surprised by the news.

"There are many bishops in Manila, why was Archbishop Rosales the one chosen? We'll certainly miss him," Belen said.

Environmentalist groups in Batangas see the new post of Rosales as their loss, too. The archbishop was the one who put up the Lipa Archdiocesan and Ecological Concerns Office three years ago.

## Environmentalist

It was only in January when Rosales convened all the environmentalist groups in Batangas to form a coalition to protect the environment. The coalition, Lusong sa Kalikasan ng Kumintang, was supposed to stop all forms of environmental degradation in the province.

"I'm having two minds on this," said lawyer Ipat Luna, Tanggol Kalikasan chair. "If Archbishop Rosales will be the next (Archbishop of Manila), that could mean we won't be getting direct support from him anymore."

"But at the same time, having him as the (Manila Archbishop) means good news. With his background on environmental activities and protecting the integrity of creation, which is his advocacy, it could also mean that he will be able to expand his constituency for the environment," Luna added.

Rachel Macalalad, secretary of the Samahang Pinahahalagahan ang Buhay at Ari-arian, an environmentalist group fighting First Gas Power Corp. in Barangay Sta. Rita Kalsada, also expressed her group's feeling of loss.

She said her group would no longer have anyone to help it in the Catholic Church.

Rosales has been leading the group in its fight against high power-tension wires installed by First Gas Power Corp. The wires were built inside a residential area where the people fear radiation from the electromagnetic field has been causing the death of several elderly people.

Rosales even authored the book titled "Aral ng Batangueño" that explains the history of the Kumintang. In the book, he discussed the Catholic Church's fight against illegal gambling, graft and corruption.

He has also compiled studies on the water table of Batangas that has been affected by industrial development in the province.

He further compiled studies on the environmental conditions of Batangas.

# Archbishop's last mission was how to fight corruption

A DAY before he left for Rome on Sept. 11, Lipa Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, who succeeds Jaime Cardinal Sin as the Archbishop of Manila, was telling the people to fight corruption and requesting the business sector to help in the "winnable battle of good against evil."

Rosales convened about 500 representatives from the business community, government, nongovernment organizations and members of the archdiocese, in the Batangan Plaza to present what he calls the solution to the country's ills.

"What we want to do now is to invite the refineries, industries, corporations, stores and institutions operating in the province to share with Pondong Batangan the allowable 10 percent of their gross taxes payable to the government," he said.

"As SEC-registered non-profit corporation, any gift, grant and donation to the Pondong Batangan is tax deductible. By doing that, we save your money that goes to graft and corruption," he explained.

Fed up with massive corruption and exposés in the government, Rosales introduced the Pondong Batangan to the business community as a scheme that could be the solution to the problems of the people and help the poor.

The Pondong Batangan, a community foundation managed by the Archdiocese of Lipa which helps people through small donations, has been in existence for three years now. The idea was to get people to donate 25 centavos everyday until the *tibyo* (empty soft drinks cans used as coin banks) is filled.

Since the project started, the archdiocese has already collected about P13 million and has helped thousands of poor Batangueños start a business through no-interest microlending programs.

"Twenty-five centavo coins are left behind by people during the *paluang palayok* games. Those coins are [ignored] by kids but if we put them together and share them with the Pondong Batangan, it could help a lot of people," Rosales said.

"It's like giving away crumbs from your food that would in turn help the unfortunate ones. We think it's the solution to the problems of the Filipinos. If it still doesn't work, *sumama na lang tayo kay* Honasan [let's just join Honasan]," he said, referring to suspected coup mastermind Senator Gregorio Honasan.

Rosales mentioned World Bank Report No. 20369-PH titled "Philippines Combatting Corruption in the Philippines," which revealed that corruption in the government went as high as 42 percent.

"Despite the hopelessness in the countryside that is brewed by self-seeking politics, business organizations and adventurous reformers, there is a way to give people hope in their misery," he said.

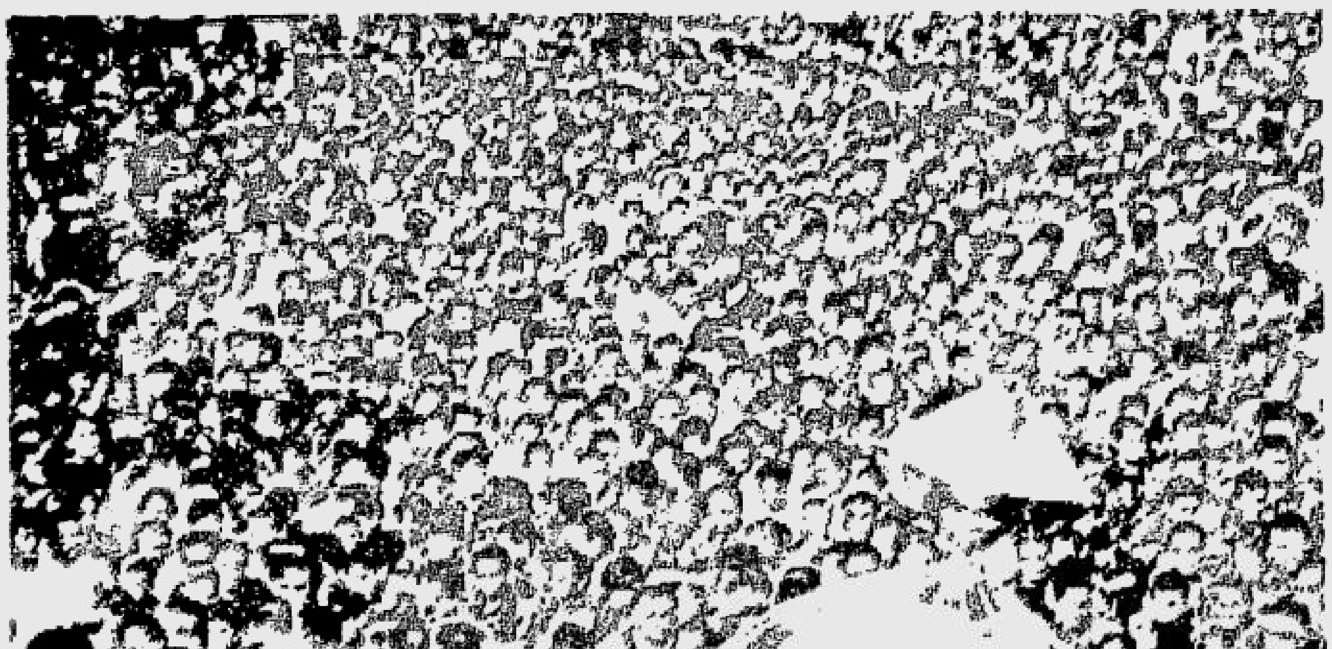
"We believe that in small beginnings, people will be helped to live full decent lives," he added.

The conference is just one of the many planned meetings with government officials, business groups and nongovernment organizations in the province.

Convenors in the conference included Gov. Hermilando Mandanas and businessman Enrique Zobel. *Mei Magsino*

# Peñafrancia: The festival of festivals

**By Gabriel Hidalgo Bordado**
*Contributor*



**THOUSANDS** of sweating barefoot men shove and jostle their way toward the image of the Our Lady of Peñafrancia as it is brought from the Basilica Minore to the Naga Metropolitan Cathedral in Naga City.

VIC VILLAFLOR

THE SCENE was almost surreal: thousands of barefoot men, their bodies bathed in sweat, pushed, shoved, jostled, wriggled and kicked their way into the vortex of yet another mass of anxious humanity.

Their objective: to touch a tiny image, if only for a few fleeting seconds. They then let out hair-raising cries of "Viva La Virgen" to the applause of about a quarter of a million spectators who jammed the old Naga City's edifices and narrow streets.

For the uninitiated, the scene would appear to be a throwback into the days of *anito* worshippers. The primeval cries, the element of machismo, and the frenzy fit well into one's concept of an ancient religious rite as described in some scholarly tomes.

Yet, it was actually the street procession—a prelude to the fluvial procession—in honor of Bicolandia's patroness, Our Lady of Peñafrancia.

That was one's impression more than a decade ago. Nothing, it seems, has changed since.

The scene unfolds every September, the intensity never waning, even in the face of the raging monsoon.

"September in Naga! From the first of the month, all roads lead to the holy city of Bicolanos. By land, sea, air and river, come the pilgrims to attend the fiesta of the Bicol patroness," so writes Nick Joaquin in his book titled "The Seven Golden Cities of the Sun."

Indeed, after almost three centuries, the Peñafrancia festival has evolved into what it is now a mammoth religious and sociocultural event drawing thousands of pilgrims and tourists alike from all over the country.

In a region where feasts abound, the Peñafrancia stands out as the festival of festivals due to sheer breadth and historicity.

## Origin

Joaquin, whose fictional work are as riveting as his historical vignettes, has his own theory on the origin of the Peñafrancia devotion: The cult of the Peñafrancia was brought to the Bicolandia by the Franciscans, the missionaries who converted *Ibalon* (the old name of Bicol) to Christianity.

Behind the cult is a history that goes back to the times of Charlemagne and the Twelve Pairs of France (our Doce Pares). Peñafrancia ("Rock of France") marked the border between Spain and France, and is supposed to be where Roland, one of the Twelve Peers, led his troops against the Moors. Roland perished in the battle, but the Moors' advance into Europe was checked.

Because of this, Peñafrancia became associated with the devotion to Mary as the helper of Christian troops in the struggle against the Moors."

On the other hand, based on extant historical records, the devotion in Bicol purportedly started as a form of appeasement for the mountain folk known as *remontados* or *cimarrones* who adamantly refused to recognize the authority of the Spanish colonizers.

In his book titled "Naga: The Birth and Rebirth of a City," Prof. Danilo Madrid Gerona claims that "the devotion was closely linked with the initial success of the Spanish missionaries in resettling and bringing back to the folds of the law the elusive *remontados*. In 1710, a young cleric named Miguel Robles de Covarrubias introduced the devotion to the newly resettled *remontados*."

## Miracles

Miracles were immediately attributed to the wooden image (presumably carved by a local artisan) of the Virgin of Peñafrancia. A chapel was soon built for the image and "the once isolated *remontado* village became a major pilgrimage site for residents of nearby towns."

Before long, the Peñafrancia devotion, according to Gerona, spread to other parts of the region, particularly with the introduction of the *traslacion* and the fluvial procession.

"Further innovations were introduced by succeeding prelates particularly Bishop Francisco Gainza ... By the last decades of the 19th century, the Peñafrancia devotion became not merely a regional festival but had drawn pilgrims from various regions of the country," Gerona notes in his newly published book.

## Religious rituals

Today, despite all the sidelights and divertissements (including, of all things, a military parade reputedly the longest in the Philippines, lasting almost eight hours), the religious rituals, now liberally laced with folk beliefs and practices, remain as the focal points of the festival.

The *traslacion*, which brings the image of the Virgin Mary (lovingly called "Ina" by the Bicolanos) from the Basilica Minore to the centuries-old Naga Metropolitan Cathedral, is followed a week later by a colorful fluvial procession on the historic Naga River. This actually constitutes the voyage back to the basilica, the permanent home of Ina.

"The enduring devotion to Ina has become a unifying factor, a great equalizer for people from all walks of life. It doesn't really matter whether you are rich or poor, a believer or simply a kibitzer. And there lies the mystique of the Peñafrancia festival, seamlessly weaving the divine and the mundane into a wondrous tapestry of overpowering emotions and shared memories," notes former Naga mayor and now Rep. Suplicio Roco, an Ateneo de Manila-trained anthropologist and long-time devotee of Our Lady of Peñafrancia.

This month, as in ages past, devotees are expected to come in throngs, again seeking solace and surcease in the company of their beloved Ina.

And with the expected outpouring of faith, hope and love, the festival of festivals will always be a source of strength and inspiration for people in quest of peace for a strife-torn world.

---

*THE AUTHOR is now on his third term as councilor of Naga City. He established, among other things, the Naga City Council for Culture and the Arts.*

# 500 homes torched by 'drug fiend'

**By Margaux Ortiz**

SOME 500 homes went up in flames in Muntinlupa City yesterday after a man allegedly under the influence of illegal drugs torched his house which was in the middle of the community.

The police have arrested Rogelio Oprim, 24, of 73 Joaquin Compound, Purok 8, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, minutes after the blaze was put out at 5 a.m.

According to Senior Fire Officer 3 Renato Santiago, the fire started at Oprim's house at 1:35 a.m.

The fire destroyed some P2.5 million worth of property in Joaquin Compound.

Meanwhile, a television technician burned to death when fire engulfed his home in Makati City at 3:45 a.m. also yesterday.

Killed was Leonardo Concha, 59, of 1672 Caton St., Barangay La Paz, Makati City.

Investigation disclosed that the blaze originated from the first floor of Concha's two-story house.

Around P50,000 worth of property was destroyed in the fire that ended at 5:10 a.m.

According to Edwin Concha, eldest son of the victim, his father's house had no permanent electricity source and would only tap from his neighbor from morning until late afternoon.

The younger Concha said that his father would use candles when night falls.

# Cop on the spot for failed abduction

A POLICEMAN in Dasmariñas, Cavite, is now under the microscope after his identification card was found inside a van used in a failed kidnapping yesterday morning in Parañaque City.

Parañaque police chief Supt. Ronald Estilles yesterday said SPO4 Antonio Amores presented himself to them but denied any involvement in the attempted abduction.

Estilles said business couple Julio and Corazon Jaucian were on their way to their office at about 7 a.m. when three men onboard a blue Besta van bumped their car near the Citimall in San Dionisio, Sucat Road.

The men got off their vehicle and argued with the couple regarding the alleged damages, Estilles said.

Moments later, the couple noticed that the suspects were already forcing them into the van.

The security guards of nearby Amvel Business Park noticed the commotion and tried to apprehend the suspects, Estilles said.

Estilles said the suspects took off in the couple's gold Honda Civic (WTL 440) when their own van experienced engine trouble.

According to the police chief, Corazon was taken to a hospital because she experienced chest pains after the incident.

Investigators found a .38 caliber revolver, plastic bags, plastic straw, Amores' ID and one of the suspects' wallets inside the van.

An identification card belonging to Rodel Malaso was found in the wallet.

Estilles said he called Dasmariñas police chief Rodel Sermoñas and inquired about Amores.

Amores later told probers that his driver Rodel Malaso, whom he allegedly had not seen for a long time, was probably behind in the incident.

The victims identified Malaso, through the identification card found at the crime scene, as one of the suspects. *Margaux Ortiz*

# Mayors add teeth to MMDA drive

**By Margaux Ortiz**

WATCH out! The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) now has a meaner bite.

Metro Manila mayors yesterday enacted an ordinance imposing stiffer penalties on drivers who would violate the stricter traffic rules on Edsa.

For starters, drivers of public utility vehicles (PUV) that violate the single dispatch system or Organized Edsa Bus Route will be slapped P500 to P1,000 in fines, MMDA chair Bayani Fernando said.

He added that the license of PUV drivers who violate the rules of the dispatch system three times in six months would be suspended.

The MMDA chair said that private vehicles that go inside the yellow lane would face a P500 fine.

"And if the motorist violates the scheme three times in one year, his driver's license will be suspended," Fernando warned.

Meanwhile, he disclosed that the present towing system was also discussed during the Metro Manila Council meeting yesterday.

He told accredited towing firms to first inform the MMDA Metrobase of any towing activity.

"This is so the car owners would know where the tow trucks would take their vehicles," Fernando explained.

He warned towing companies to stick to the standard MMDA fee of P1,400.

"We will not hesitate to tow hard-headed and illegal towing vehicles," Fernando said.

# NBI official who opposed Wycoco kicked out

**By Leila B. Salaverria**

HE DID not like the post that he got after a reshuffle at the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). Now, Samuel Ong no longer has any place at the NBI.

Ong, who had protested his assignment as deputy director for technical services, has been transferred to the Commission on the Settlement of Land Problems or Coslap.

His transfer was contained in a department order dated Aug. 25 and signed by Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong.

The NBI is an attached agency of the Department of Justice.

The order was to take effect immediately and was issued a little over a month after Ong denounced his transfer to the Technical Services department from the Regional Operations Services department.

Ong condemned Wycoco for the transfer, which he claimed was due to his perceived closeness to Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a known nemesis of Wycoco.

Ong even led a rally at the NBI headquarters in Manila during which he called for Wycoco's ouster.

Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida intervened and met with Wycoco and Ong. Calida later proclaimed that "all was well" at the NBI.

Then came the order from Datumanong who said Ong's new appointment to the Coslap would take effect "until further orders."

# The governor's 40 bodyguards

**ON TARGET**

*Ramon Tulfo*

LAW ENFORCERS and civilians who carry their guns concealed on their travels to Manila should curse Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan for being responsible for exposing them.

The desk where guns are retrieved by their owners after coming down from the aircraft at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) II has been transferred to the outside of the terminal building from its old place.

The gun owner is exposed to the public when he retrieves his gun from a uniformed policeman.

* * *

For those who are not used to air travel, gun-toting citizens surrender their weapons for safekeeping before they board their aircraft. The gun-carrying passenger retrieves his gun at the airport of his destination.

At the NAIA II, gun-carrying passengers get embarrassed when they retrieve their guns in front of people who wait outside for arriving passengers, as well as law enforcers who are in the vicinity.

Only show-offs and braggarts want other people to know they carry guns.

* * *

'But what's Governor Ampatuan got to do with the transfer of the gun retrieval desk at the NAIA II arrival area?

Recently, the governor and his retinue of 40 or so bodyguards arrived at the NAIA II. When they retrieved their M-16s, M-14s and .45 caliber pistols at the desk, they showed off their firepower.

The governor and his men cocked their guns after they were handed the weapons, scaring out of their wits the other arriving passengers. Imagine 40 weapons being cocked simultaneously and you will understand how the other arriving passengers felt.

* * *

Who allowed Ampatuan to travel to Manila with 40 or so fully armed bodyguards from the Army and the Philippine National Police?

The governor should be reminded that Metro Manila is not a war zone like his Maguindanao. Two or three bodyguards in tow would have sufficed.

Or is the governor such a show-off?

* * *

The uniformed cop at NAIA from whom the guns were retrieved admonished Ampatuan's bodyguards not to cock their guns inside the terminal building.

"*Bakit, masasagot mo ba ang buhay ni Gov kapag siya ay binaril* (Can you answer for the governor's life if somebody shoots him)?

The bodyguards have been "infected" by their master.

* * *

I am for banning cops from nightclubs even when they're off duty.

But disallowing cops to have mistresses is ridiculous.

In the first place, who will go after the philandering cops? Other cops? Men from the judiciary? Priests? So-called female moralists?

When it comes to morals, nobody is clean. A guy who says he's morally clean is a hypocrite.

* * *

The nightclub ban on cops started with reports that the high-end Classmate videoke bar was held up by armed men.

I am not a PR for the nitespot but the report is grossly inaccurate. What happened was that an employee of the nightclub was held up while she was waiting for a ride home.

Classmate is so big, that the robbers would have been "eaten up" by the place. No robber would be stupid enough to rob a place crawling with cops.

* * *

It's true, the place had many cops for customers, but I'm told they paid their bills. There is nothing illegal about Classmate.

And I never saw a drunken cop creating trouble in that place.

I should know. I used to bring my friends to Classmate before going out nights became more dangerous for me.

* * *

Here's a piece that Cebu Rep. Clavel Martinez ought to read to put some sense into her swell head.

Martinez has been trying to summon broadcaster Korina Sanchez to her congressional committee to make Ms Sanchez explain why she called her honor "bastos" in the daily show "Morning Girls."

The note comes from Elliot Anderson, a retired American policeman who's now living in Ozamiz City with his Filipino wife.

Here are Anderson's thoughts on Martinez's reaction to being called "bastos":

"I agree with you that you can call anyone 'bastos' (any time) you want in a free country. As a police commander (and before that as a detective and motorcycle cop), I was called (many names) which would set this letter on fire.

"'Sticks and stones will break my bones but names will never hurt me'—an old American saying that you learn when you're a kid. Those who respond physically to name-calling go to jail. 'Face' has a price in the US. Controlling yourself is the trick, and I'm the first to admit that's hard."

"The American way of responding to someone who just called you an a__h___e, in effect is, 'f___ you very much."

What about that, honorable congresswoman from Cebu?

## METROBRIEFS

### Antidrug unit abolished

WESTERN Police District Director Pedro Bulaong has abolished the Station Anti-Illegal Drugs unit in the Sta. Cruz area after its commanding officer, Chief Insp. Edgar Alintog, was arrested Monday for alleged extortion. Alintog was nabbed by the National Bureau of Investigation on the complaint of Enriqueta Nalayog who accused him of demanding P140,000 in exchange for the release of her son. NBI agents staged an entrapment for Alintog who was collared after taking P10,000 in marked money. The rest of the unit's personnel would be assigned to foot patrol duty while the appointment of a new station antidrug chief was pending. The WPD headquarters' drug enforcement group would take care of the antinarcotics operations in Sta. Cruz. *Leila B. Salaverria*

### Manhole saved from thief

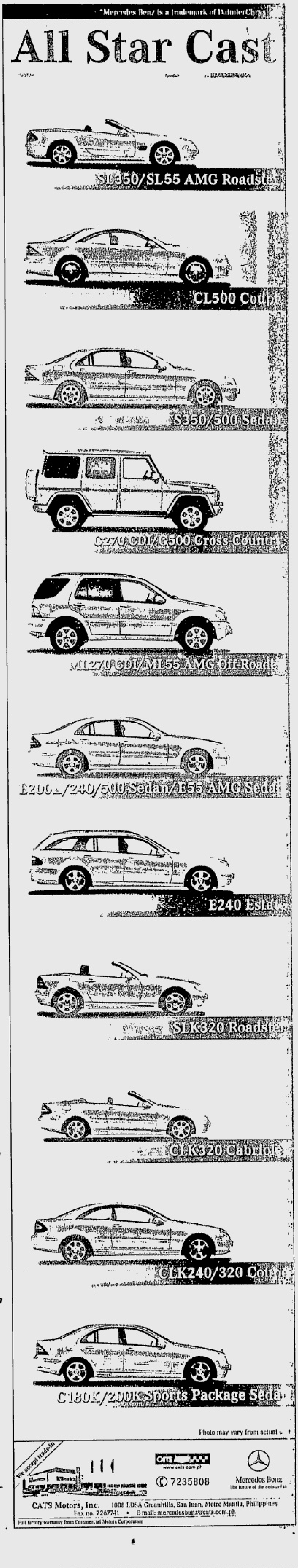
OFFICIALS of Barangay 105 in Tondo, Manila, have prevented probable major accidents in their area with the arrest before dawn yesterday of Esacar Serenio, 44, a scrap metal collector who allegedly steals manhole covers. Tanod Renato Homerez caught Serenio loading a metal drainage cover onto a pedicab along Roxas Street, Magsaysay Village, at about 4 a.m. A search at the suspect's house in Happyland, Tondo, yielded five more drainage covers and two manhole lids. Homerez said many vehicles and people had fallen into open manholes and drainage openings in their neighborhood. *Tarra Quismundo*

### Loyalty rewarded

MANDALUYONG City has regularized 145 administrative and maintenance service workers despite these not having the required civil service eligibility. Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. said this was the city's way of providing its employees security of tenure. "We all know that most of these employees under the administrative services are short of educational attainment and civil service eligibility, but it should not prevent them from getting regular items," Abalos said. He noted that those promoted had been employed as casuals for the last 10 to 15 years. *Luige del Puerto*

### Symposium on Women

THE ATENEO Library of Women's Writings (ALIWW) will hold a symposium on "Women as Forces for Social Change" on Sept. 19, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., at the Audiovisual Room of the Social Science Building in the Ateneo Loyola Heights campus. The panel of speakers will be composed of Eugenia Duran Apostol, founder of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and founder and chair of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power; Emily A. Abrera, chair of McCann Erickson Phils.; Dr. Aurora Pavia Asanza, dean of the Paaralang Manghihilom para sa Naghihilom in Tanay, Rizal; Karen Tanada, executive director of the Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute; and Marcia Feria Miranda, president of Punla sa Tao Foundation. The symposium is being sponsored by Filway Marketing, Inc. and Avon. For more information, please contact the ALIWW office (426-6001, loc. 5811) or e-mail aliww@admu.edu.ph.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*Editor* Abelardo S. Ulanday

# Try 'wholesome' fun for a change, cops told

By Leila B. Salaverria

TO KEEP his men off nightclubs and girlie bars, Western Police District Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong has urged them to try wholesome fun for a change.

WPD Spokesperson Chief Insp. Gerry Agunod yesterday said Bulaong urged his men to go instead to Manila's restaurants and family-oriented KTV bars if they want to relax and unwind after work.

Agunod said Bulaong gave the advice in the wake of President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive for the police to stop frequenting nightclubs and girlie bars.

"If they want to enjoy themselves, they could enjoy good food and even bring their families to bond with them," he said. "That would be good for them."

But a veteran Manila policeman, who asked that he not be named, said yesterday that he frequents beer gardens and clubs because he likes to drink.

"I really go out to drink, but I am not abusive and I see nothing wrong with drinking," he told the INQUIRER. "What is bad is if I abuse my power and create trouble."

Agunod also said that Bulaong has reminded his operatives to avoid ostentatious display of jewelry.

"They're not being prevented from wearing jewelry. But they should remember not to wear too much because it's not good to look at," he said.

Meanwhile, Eastern Police District Chief Supt. Rolando Sacramento said yesterday that the directive against going to nightclubs and girlie bars also covers members of other law enforcement agencies.

"This order includes the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the National Bureau of Investigation and other law enforcement agencies," Sacramento said.

In the Camanava (Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela) and Quezon City area, local government and police officials have expressed support to the "nightlife checks" on policemen.

Mayors Rey Malonzo (Caloocan), Amado Vicencio (Malabon), Toby Tiangco (Navotas) and Emmanuel "Bobbit" Carlos (Valenzuela), in separate interviews, were all united in saying that the policemen—or all government officials—should refrain from frequenting nightclubs and instead act as a model to the community they serve. *With reports from Luige del Puerto and Tina Santos*

# 2 bus detectives foil rob attempt

By Tina Santos

TWO ROOKIE policemen assigned as bus detectives foiled a bus robbery on Tuesday night in Quezon City, leaving one of the suspects dead during a shootout.

Two other suspects were arrested, while another escaped.

National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief Deputy Director Reynaldo Velasco yesterday commended P01s Darwin Inocentes and Cyril Dagusen, both detailed at the Central Police District, for their feat.

Police investigation showed that at around 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, the four suspects announced a holdup aboard a Fairview-bound Lucky Seven bus (TWA 331) upon reaching Don Fabian on Commonwealth Avenue.

Inocentes and Dagusen introduced themselves as cops but the suspects immediately fired at them, prompting the lawmen to fire back and hitting one of them.

The three other suspects got off the bus and were chased by a patrol car. Two of them were caught but the fourth one managed to escape.

Police identified the fatality as Jun Piraila. He died on the spot. The arrested robbery suspects were identified as Carlito Bacul and Ramon Jimenez. They were also injured during the shootout and were taken to hospitals.

Recovered from the suspects were two caliber .38 revolver and live ammunition.

Two bus passengers, identified as Angelica Ducusin and PO3 Romulo Ternate, a policeman, were also injured during the shootout.

Uniformed and plainclothes lawmen were ordered deployed two weeks ago on buses to thwart robbery incidents.

Police officials said they might not have enough men to guard all buses plying Metro Manila routes.

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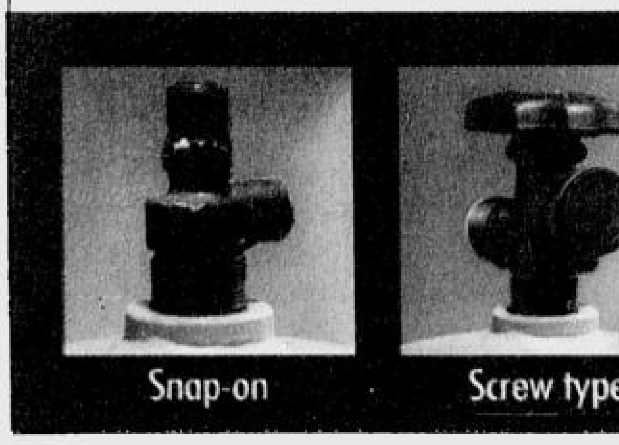

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# SPORTS

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## Bata remains unbeaten in 9-ball meet

FILIPINO Efren "Bata" Reyes defeated compatriot Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat, 11-6, yesterday to remain unbeaten in the 28th Annual US Open 9-ball tourney at the Chesapeake Conference Center, Chesapeake, Virginia,USA. The 49-year-old Reyes will face Buzzy Lambriola, who beat Danny Medina, 11-8, in the next round.

## NCAA FINALS

# One to go for Letran

**GAMES TOMORROW (Rizal Coliseum)**
2 p.m.—San Beda vs Mapua (Jrs finals)
4 p.m.—SSC vs Letran (Srs Game 2)

**By Marc Anthony Reyes**

LETRAN showed no respect for San Sebastian's fabled championship tradition, displaying extraordinary spunk on both ends of the floor for an 89-73 victory yesterday in Game 1 of their NCAA men's basketball title series at the Rizal Coliseum.

The Knights moved within a win of taking their first title in four years and spoiling the Stags' three-peat ambition.

Game 2 of the best-of-three series is set tomorrow with the Knights looking unstoppable in the wake of the unexpected terrific drubbing they dealt on the Stags.

What was supposed to be a close fight happened only in the first quarter which ended at 21-all before the Knights methodically pulled away as four players shared the scoring chores with main man Ronjay Enrile.

Firing three triples in the first quarter, Enrile finished with a game-high 21 points while Jonathan Aldave, Aaron Aban, Jonathan Pinera and Boyet Bautista combined for 48 for the Knights, who led by as much as 22 points at 69-47 late in the third period.

"We didn't make any key adjustment when we first played them. My boys just played a little harder this time," said Letran coach Louie Alas, who guided the Knights to the 1998 title that kicked off the school's back-to-back championship romp.

Alas returned to the Knights last year after a miserable stint in the PBA as coach of Mobiline (now Talk N Text).

The Knights, who also routed the Stags in the first of their two meetings in the eliminations, rampaged to a 51-30 lead at halftime as Letran outscored San Sebastian, 30-9, in the second quarter with Aldave unloading three three pointers of his own to pace the swirling attack.

Letran hit 9 of 18 triples in the end and complemented its game-long sharpness with an unforgiving defense that stymied Clark Moore and season MVP Leo Najorda and led to 23 SSC turnovers overall.

Although the Stags managed to come within 12 points midway in the fourth quarter, the Knights easily defused the rally behind Enrile, who also finished with seven rebounds and four steals.

In the first game, the Mapua Robins defeated the Letran Squires, 76-60, to make the juniors finals against San Beda.

The Cubs need only a victory over the Robins tomorrow to take the title.

Scores:

First Game (Jrs)

**MAPUA 76**—Galinato 22, tabaquero 19, Aguilar 12, Del Rosario 7, Marquez 7, Ocampo 6, Garcia 3.

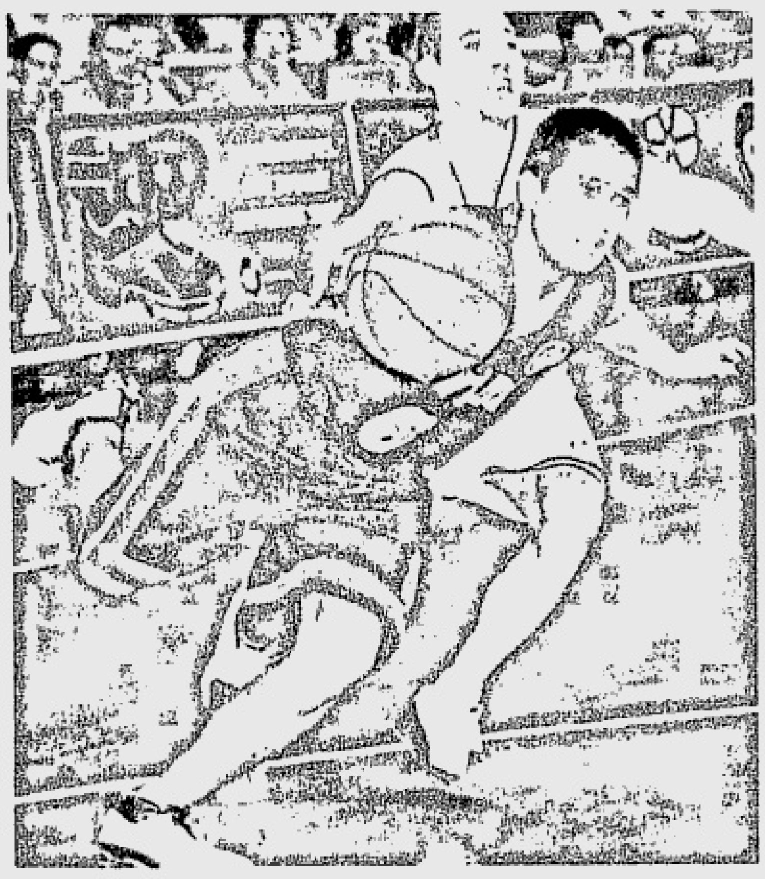
**LETRAN 60**—Morial 22, Bituin 12, Salazar 8, Martin 7, Lapitan 6, Tajao 2, Abdon 2, Ruiz 1, Tagarda 0, Latonio 0, Espiritu 0, Reodique 0, Pasana 0.

Second Game (Srs)

**LETRAN 89**—Enrile 24, Aldave 14, Aban 14, Bautista 10, Pinera 10, Santos 8, Rodriguez 4, Fedelicio 2, Reyes 2, Realista 2, Anabo 2, Quinday 0.

**SSC-R 73**—Baluyot 14, Najorda 14, Moore 13, Vicente 9, Uy 8, Gonzales 8, Maneclang 3, Rebuya 3, Aguilar 1, Lim 0.

Quarters: 21-21, 51-30, 71-54, 89-73.



**LETRAN'S Mark Fedelicio (6) drives past San Sebastian's Victor Maneclang in the NCAA finals yesterday.** RUDY ESPERAS

# Aces down Hotdogs

**GAMES TOMORROW (Cuneta Astrodome)**
5 p.m.—Shell vs FedEx
7:20 p.m.—Jun Limpot vs Davonn Harp
7:30 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Purefoods

**By June Navarro**

ISAAC Fontaine shrugged off the effect of a 14-hour travel to send Alaska streaking past Purefoods, 97-91, last night in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Philsports Arena.

Despite a little rest, the former Memphis Grizzlie still exploded with 38 points and nine rebounds, allowing the Aces to chalk up their first win after three successive setbacks.

"For a guy who hadn't slept at all, that's an incredible feat," said Alaska coach Tim Cone of the 6-foot-4 Fontaine, who arrived early yesterday morning from the United States.

Fontaine was immediately whisked off to his hotel, given a pep talk by Cone and slept for two hours before plunging into a light workout to introduce him to the Aces' brand of play.

Fontaine then worked on his papers the whole day and showed up at the 5:30 p.m. game with still a lot of energy.

It turned out Fontaine didn't have a hard time adjusting to the Alaska system. He had a brief stint with the LA Lakers' preseason tour in 2001 and got acquainted with the triangle offense.

"He's the guy we've been looking for in the last three years. Through the adversity he went through, it gives us a picture of what we can achieve this conference," said Cone.

The presence of Fontaine made up for the loss of Don Allado, who sprained his right foot in the first half and rode the bench.

The Hotdogs, who recently snapped a 12-game losing streak against sister team San Miguel Beer, dropped to 1-3 in Group B.

Scores:

**ALASKA 97**—Fontaine 38, Peek 16, Cortez 9, Feihl 8, Cablay 7, Argo 6, Allado 4, Duat 4 Padilla 3, Noble 2.

**PUREFOODS 91**—Arceneaux 29, Raymundo 19, Castillo 16, Mamaril 6, Segle 6, Demape 5, Fernandez 4, Patrimonio 2, Evangelista 2, Santos 2, Magtulis 0.

Quarters: 15-18, 40-39, 65-59, 97-91.

# *All set for Inaugural Weekend at E. Ridge*

CEREMONIAL tee-offs to be led by Tommy Alcantara, chair of the Alsons Group, and Sta. Lucia Realty president Exequiel Robles will highlight this Saturday's formal opening of the Greg Norman course to complete the 72-hole menu of the sprawling Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club.

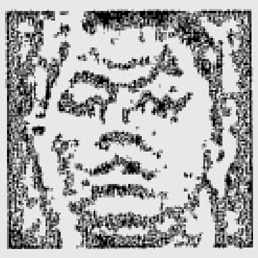
Alcantara and Robles, who head the joint venture partners for the multibillion project in Gen. Trias, Cavite, will be joined in the opening rites, which is part of the grand Eagle Ridge Inaugural Weekend, by an array of government and club officials as well as special guests from various sectors.

Among the VIPs gracing the occasion are Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi, Vice Gov. Jonvic Remulla, Gen. Trias Mayor Osboy Campania, Vice Mayor Jonjon Ferrer, Sta. Lucia Realty EVP Vicente Santos, Eagle Ridge project director Winifred Gob and Rod Feliciano, president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

Arrivals at the country's biggest golf complex for the Inaugural Weekend are expected to be more than a thousand as Eagle Ridge members and their guests take part in a sports festival at the golf courses and the Main Family Clubhouse that will be inaugurated on the same day.

To be staged alongside the Fore x Four member-guest golf tournament at the four courses of Eagle Ridge designed by Isao Aoki, Andy Dye, Nick Faldo and Norman are special events in bowling, badminton, tennis, billiards and swimming.

## WHAT'S INSIDE



■ Jayasinghe out of Asian trackfest /A21
■ Shock snare WNBA crown /A20

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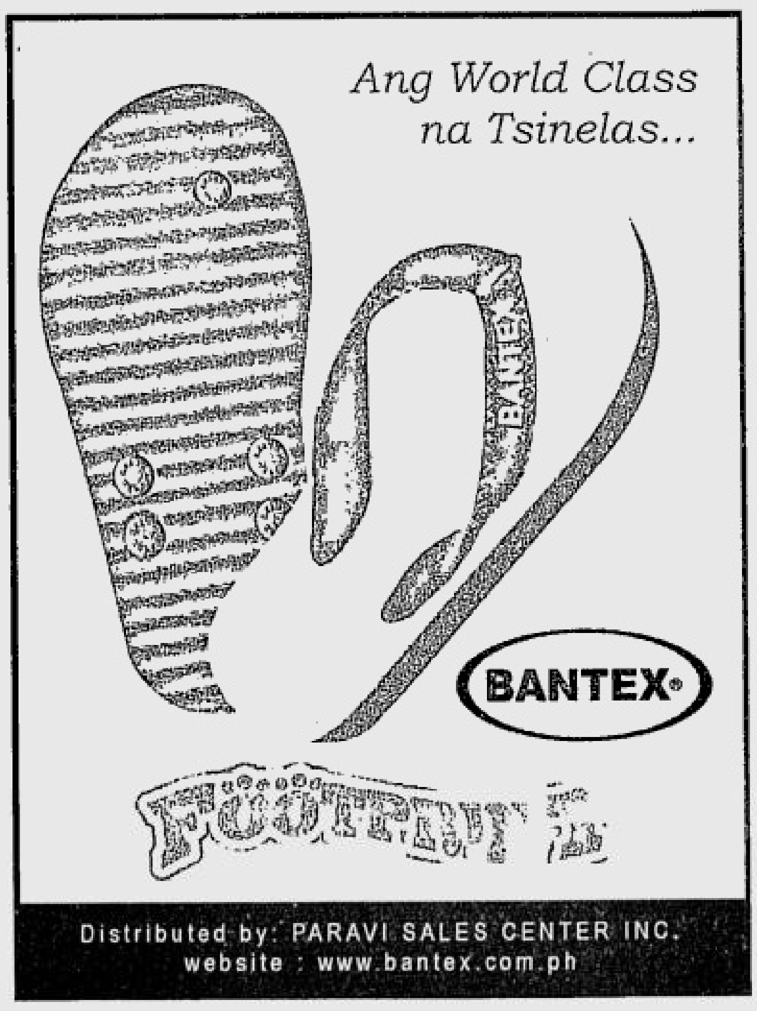

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# UE Warriors face Archers

**GAMES TODAY**
*(Araneta Coliseum)*
11 a.m.—UPIS vs UST (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—UP vs UST (Srs)
4 p.m.—La Salle vs UE (Srs)
6 p.m.—La Salle vs UE (Jrs)

| STANDINGS | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Ateneo | 11 | 3 |
| FEU | 11 | 3 |
| UE | 10 | 3 |
| La Salle | 7 | 6 |
| Adamson | 5 | 9 |
| UST | 4 | 9 |
| UP | 3 | 10 |
| NU | 3 | 11 |

**TITLE-HUNGRY University of the East tries to end its elimination campaign on a high note as it battles four-time champion La Salle today in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Araneta Coliseum.**

The Warriors hope to get even with the Archers in their 4 p.m. clash and gain a playoff with Far Eastern for the second twice-to-beat advantage in the Final Four.

"Our job isn't finished yet. It's just starting," said Zamar, who played the point in UE's back-to-back title conquests way back in 1984 and 1985.

"This is a game which will spell a big difference in our campaign," he added.

A victory by the Recto-based dribblers would force a three-way tie for first among UE, titleholder Ateneo and FEU at 11-3.

The Eagles, however, automatically gain the No. 1 spot, and the first twice-to-beat privilege, due to a higher quotient, forcing the Warriors and the Tamaraws to a playoff for the second position, which also carries a twice-to-beat bonus in the Final Four.

A loss by UE would lead to a playoff between Ateneo and FEU for the top spot, which is important for La Salle.

As the No. 4 team in the Final Four, the Archers would rather face the Tamaraws in the semifinals rather than the Eagles, who have already beaten them twice in the eliminations. For this to happen, FEU should finish No. 1 to draw La Salle in the Final Four, with Ateneo meeting UE in the other semifinal duel.

*Dennis U. Eroa*

# Lhuillier meets Qatar

CEBU CITY—M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala-Cebu and Qatar-Ricor Mills posted contrasting victories Tuesday to arrange a final duel for the Trust Class National Open basketball title at the New Cebu City Coliseum here.

The Cebuanos leaned on the endgame heroics of Geremy Robinson to subdue Burlington-NBL, 86-83, while the Qataris routed Chinese Taipei-Plantation Bay, 82-63, to the delight of Ricor Mills owners Danny and Andres G.

The Cebuanos and the Qataris were disputing the title at presstime last night.

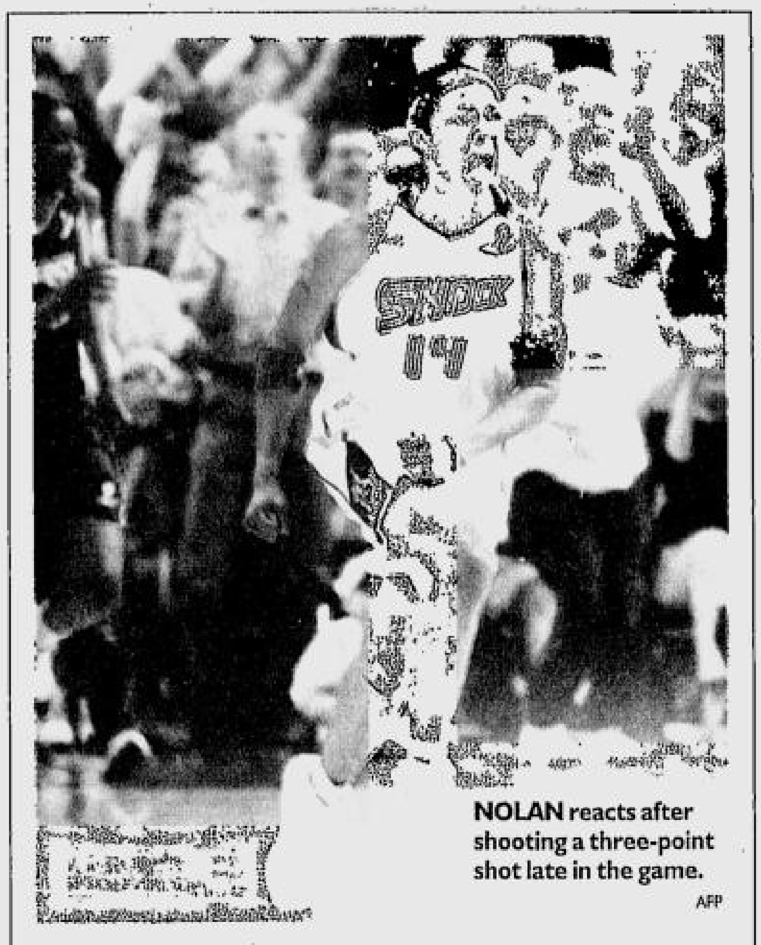
Ho Shou Cheng outgunned Qatari superstar Ismail Mahmoud, 15-10, in the final round to emerge as "3-point shootout king."

# Gonzales, Seronio win

NOEL Gonzales, Isaias Seronio, Rowell Yatco and Rogel Flores beat their respective foes to barge into the round of 16 of the "Battle of the Champions" table tennis tournament at the Glorietta Activity Center yesterday in Makati.

Gonzales turned back Rodel Valle of PNP, 10-12, 11-6, 11-9, 8-11, 11-6; Seronio nipped last year's LG Cup champion Japhet Adaza of PCU, 8-11, 11-6, 8-11, 11-7, 12-10, while Yatco likewise edged Romeo Flores, 10-12, 11-7, 7-11, 11-4, 11-7. Flores hurdled Kirby Colis, 11-7, 6-11, 11-6, 9-11, 15-13.

Joining them in the next round of the five-day event sponsored by top electronics firm LG were Julius Esposo of UST, Leonardo de Leon of PAF, and Navy's talented duo of Lauro Crisostomo and Jojo Almazan.


**NOLAN** reacts after shooting a three-point shot late in the game.
AFP

# Shock snare crown

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan—The Detroit Shock put a perfect ending on their worst-to-first story.

Ruth Riley scored a career-high 27 points and Detroit beat the two-time defending champion Los Angeles Sparks 83-78 Tuesday night in the decisive Game 3 of the WNBA Finals.

The Shock won a league-best 25 games this season, one year after losing a league-worst 23 with the franchise in danger of being moved or folding.

The Sparks trailed for much of the game, but led 73-70 with 3:40 left.

Riley, who was selected the MVP of the finals, made a jumper and Deanna Nolan connected on a 3-pointer with 53 seconds left to give Detroit the lead for good.

Detroit's Cheryl Ford, with her father Karl Malone covering his eyes at courtside, made four free throws in the final minute to help seal the win.

Meanwhile, AOL Time Warner agreed to sell its pro basketball and hockey teams in Atlanta for $250 million.

The company is getting rid of the NBA's Atlanta Hawks and the NHL's Atlanta Thrashers as part of an effort to pay down $24 billion in debt.

*AP*

## RACING TIPS

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Race 2--1. Uncle Buck 2. Thundering Dunk/Little Sam 3 Snowy Market/Gold Honors 4. Pride of Mandaue 5. Captain Stone

Race 3--1. Roadshow 2. Replica 3. Secret Quest

Race 4--1 C'est Moi 2. Princess Ann 3. Dot Com 4. Sierra Madre

Race 5--1 Black Gold/Bunker Buster 2. Princess Sarah 3. Guided Missile 4. Party Goer 5. Tool Pusher

Race 6--1. Siete de Marso 2. Ryuji 3. Muro-Ami

Race 7--1. Hurricane Doding 2. Ponchito 3. Popularity 4. Main Street 5. Awesome Power

Race 8--1. Day and Night/Prickly Heat 2. Calvin's Magic 3. Cuadro de Alas 4. Migeul's Pet

Race 9--1. Rose in Bloom 2. Thunder Speed 3. Bring Home D Bacon 4. Santa Fe 5. Master Professor 6. Victory Lap

## SPORTSWATCH

### Braves lose but gain playoff seat

MONTREAL—The Atlanta Braves became the first major league team to clinch a playoff berth this season despite wasting a three-run lead Tuesday and losing to the Montreal Expos, 5-4 in 10 innings. Atlanta was assured of at least the wild-card berth when Los Angeles lost to Arizona. The Braves' magic number for clinching their 12th consecutive division title is two. Greg Maddux was denied his 15th win. In San Francisco, Barry Bonds hit his 656th career homer, his 43rd this season and third in four days as San Francisco beat San Diego 4-2. The Giants won for the 12th time in 16 games and lowered its magic number for clinching the NL West to two. *AP*

### Tourism Cup gets going tomorrow

THE PHILIPPINE Tourism Cup gears up for the Southern Tagalog Battle of the Champions tomorrow at the Evercrest Golf & Country Club. Contenders for the regional finals are the qualifying round winners who joined the PTC qualifying rounds held in the participating golf clubs: Sta. Elena, Canlubang, Riviera, Malarayat, Orchard and Eastridge. Winners in the regional finals will vie in the national championship to be held on Dec. 12 at the Manila Southwoods. The Philippine Tourism Cup is a year-round of tournaments with the Department of Tourism and Manila Broadcasting Corp. as presenters. Major sponsors are Philippine Airlines, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Inquirer Golf Monthly. For information, call the Philippine Tourism Cup Secretariat at 536-1133.

### Arcilla, other favorites hurdle rivals

TOP seed Johnny Arcilla whipped Cebuano Michael Quinones, 6-2, 6-2, to lead the round-of-16 winners in the P200,000 leg of the Cebuana Lhuillier Tennis Circuit at the Xavier Sports and Country Club court in Cagayan de Oro City. Arcilla, winner of the seven titles this year, will meet No. 13 and Roland Kraut, who beat Cebuano Bo Alburo, 1-6, 7-5, 6-3. Davis Cuppers Joseph Victorino (No. 3), Rolando Ruel Jr. (No. 4) and Michael Mora III (No. 11) also reached the third round. Victorino was leading 6-3 in the first set when Junjun Toledo retired in the second set due to fatigue. Ruel also advanced at the expense of Ruel Rubillar who quit after hurting his right knee. Mora, on the other hand, thrashed Arvin Jurao, 6-0, 6-3.

### Derby elims resume at Roligon

THE SECOND round eliminations of Roligon Mega Cockpit's Stag Festival 5-Stag Derby unfolds at 5:30 p.m. today with about 75 entries competing. Hosted by Rolly Ligon, the derby opened last Tuesday with a jampacked crowd in attendance. Newcomer Ronnie Puno of Pangasinan beat the opposition as his entries Sundance I, III and IV posted two victories each. Also with two points are Nelson Uy (Red Hawk), Eli Seo (Gian), Tato Dimayuga (Kalawit), Hector Senosa (Sir Hector), Lex Realiza (RS Sinioan), POI Garde (Silver Arrow), Showdown champ Erwin Diamante (Rex), Francis Villanueva (Battle of Stags Sept. 27) and Forex MTJ. The finals on Saturday, Sept. 18 will start at 2 p.m. Twenty-seven new entries from the provinces will field five cocks each, according to Roligon manager Danny Ty. Interested parties may contact 833-2275 and 833-1638 for details.

### 'Fastest Kill Challenge' unfolds today

AFTER undergoing reconstruction, the new Sta. Ana Cockpit reopens at 10 a.m. today, simultaneous with the staging of the "Fastest Kill Challenge One-Cock Ulutan," where a guaranteed prize of P220,000 is at stake. Registration fee is P1,100. Sta. Ana Cockpit, which is adjacent to the Philippine Racing Club along AP Reyes Avenue in Makati, is now under the management of Eric dela Rosa of Pasay Cockpit. At stake are the following prizes: fastest kill champion, P30,000; second, P25,000; third, P20,000; fourth, P15,000; fifth, P10,000; sixth to 10th, P7,000; 11th to 15th, P6,000; 16th to 20th, P5,000 and 21st to 25th, P4,000. The slowest champion gets P10,000. Hackfights will be held regularly every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

# Lady driver shines

LADY driver Pia-Liza Boren continues to make waves in the ongoing TRS (Tuason Racing School)-Ford Lynx Cup presented by Addict Mobile, at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

The 21-year-old Boren currently occupies a solid fourth place in the standings and is a commentator's delight whenever she takes to the tarmac in her Ford Lynx.

During the latest round of the event presented by Addict Mobile, the Canadian-born driver rallied from last place to claim the fourth spot.

According to Edgesport's Egay Quesada having Boren as teammate "would be such a motivating factor for me." Quesada is currently in third behind series co-leaders Jeff Borja and Dominic Ochoa.

Boren will participate in the remaining legs of the series, which are scheduled for Sept. 20-21, Oct. 11-12 and Nov. 29-30.

## SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL Lakers vs Warriors, Game 4, 1987 Western Semifinals; 8 a.m.; Solar Sports—See Los Angeles struggle past Golden State, which is led by the likes of Sleepy Floyd and JB Carroll

2003 Tournament of the Americas, 1 p.m (r), Solar Sports—Take another look at the game between Brazil and Venezuela

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

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# Jayasinghe out of Asian trackfest

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JAYASINGHE

THE reigning Asian sprint queen won't be seeing action after all.

Susanthika Jayasinghe, who has dominated an event that was once the exclusive preserve of Lydia de Vega-Mercado, will be the most notable absentee when the Sri Lanka contingent arrives today for the 15th Asian Athletics championships slated Sept. 20-23 at the Rizal Stadium.

The dusky Jayasinghe, the 2002 Asian Games 100-meter champion with a record time of 11.15 seconds in Busan, suffered an injury in the recent world athletics championships in Paris and will miss a chance to pull off another sprint double in Manila.

But Damayanthi Darsha, who completed an Asiad sweep of the sprints for Sri Lanka by ruling the 200 meters, is definitely coming.

Hjani Chathurangani De Silva will replace Jayasinghe in the 100 but her time of 11.99 pales in comparison with the best clockings of Uzbekistan's Guzel Khubbieva (11.22) and Asiad silver medalist Lyubov Perpelova (11.27).

Meanwhile, world steeplechase champion Saif Saeed Shaheen finally arrived yesterday after missing the flight that brought the 39-member Qatar squad to Manila the other day.

Shaheen will be joined by defending steeplechase champion Saifeld Khamis Abdulla also of Qatar in the event which will feature the country's long distance ace Eduardo "Vertek" Buenavista.

Shaheen, a Kenyan known as Stephen Cherono before adopting Qatar as his new country, has a personal mark of seven minutes 58.66 seconds, while Abdulla owns the Asian championship mark of 8:16. Buenavista's SEA Games record stands at 8:40.77.

"It's a big honor for me to compete with the world's best athletes," said the undaunted Buenavista in a phone call from Baguio where he is based. "I think the only way for us to improve is to really be exposed to the best talents."

Asian Athletic Association president Shri Suresh Kalmadi of India and 20 other countries led by powerhouse Saudi Arabia and South Korea are arriving today.

A member of the Indian parliament, Kalmadi will lead 3As officials who will pay a courtesy call on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo tomorrow in Malacañang. Kalmadi will also preside over the AAA Congress Friday at the Century Park Hotel.

---

# A must for GMA

**SPECTATOR**

*Al S. Mendoza*

I REITERATE my belief that President Macagapal-Arroyo should accept the invitation to be the guest of honor and speaker of the Asian Athletics Championship. This is set on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2 p.m. at the Rizal Memorial Stadium along M. Adriatico, Manila.

It is almost the President's duty to be there. The event has drawn 44 countries, making it the biggest sports gathering here in memory.

For one, her presence will be in keeping with tradition. The first time the Championship was held here in 1973, then President Marcos was the guest of honor and speaker. Twenty years later, in 1993, then President Ramos was also the guest of honor and speaker. And now, 10 years after, President Macapagal-Arroyo was also chosen guest of honor and speaker.

For another, the event is set to score a first: war-torn Iraq and Afghanistan are present, making the Championship a study in enigma. Their presence alone, plus the coming of world-class track and field superpower China (its athletes arrived Tuesday), is a poignant reiteration that through sports, peoples of the world, regardless of creed, race or political beliefs, are the chief proponents of peace and unity. President Macapagal can give more meaning to that by being there this Saturday.

Police General Reynaldo "Bocayo" Velasco has deployed no less than 60 crack members of the special police force to secure the Championship, which will showcase Asia's best in track and field. What we are going to see here are athletes who will most likely advance to the Athens Olympics next year. This is a preview of what Asia will field in the Olympiad, making it almost a once in a lifetime experience for our country that is in dire need of something nice to see. It's a feel-good Championship lasting one week, an anesthesia to the national pain brought on by so much politicking nowadays. As always, sports is the balm that soothes frayed nerves and cleanses the mind of bickering and enmity.

Please, Madame President, lead the nation in proving to our Asian neighbors and to the world that we still have time to play despite the vagaries of coping with the stern demands of existence and survival. I assure you that more than the applause you will receive on Saturday is the endearing support of a populace long tired of seeing you overcome one storm after another. Hearing you say once more "Let the games begin" at the end of your speech is symbolic of your oneness with your people; a small effort it may seem, but it will still prove nonetheless that you are in complete command of the ship.

Faith is what makes a true leader. It separates the fake from the genuine.

***

De La Salle will go all-out against University of the East today. If there's one game that should count the most for De La Salle before the UAAP Final 4 is held, it is this one.

By all means, the Archers must win. A loss would mean Ateneo, De La Salle's perennial enemy, would become No. 1. Being No. 1 means No. 4 De La Salle needs to beat Ateneo twice to advance to the championship. A tall order, if you ask me.

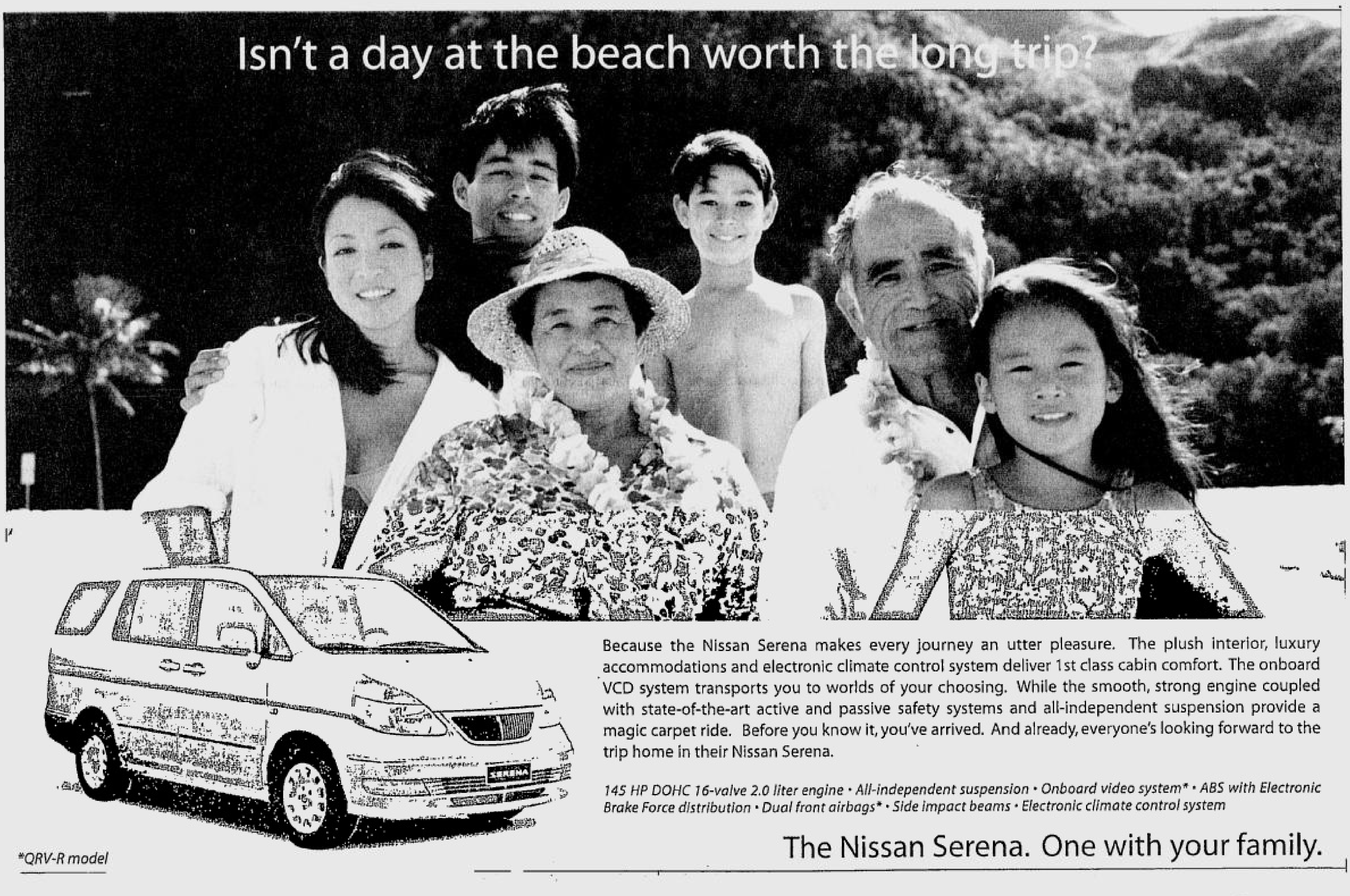
Win or lose, De La Salle will end up fourth. But a De La Salle win today, which Attorney AGA of RMN 558 believes will happen, will consign Ateneo to a knockout match with Far Eastern University for the No. 1 spot. Even if Ateneo winds up second in the end, it will still enjoy the twice-to-beat incentive. Only the third and fourth placers in the Final 4 go into the rigorous route of beating their respective opponents twice to make it to the Finals.

Thus, of the four title contenders, only Ateneo owns the luxury of having been assured of finishing either first or second after the two-round eliminations. Will the Blue Eagles proceed to keep the crown they had won dramatically last year?

If I know Mike "ABS" Enriquez, his answer, as always, will be a resounding no.

***

**FASTBREAK.** For the record, Gerard Cantada is the swing coach of Gerald Rosales, the best Filipino performer in the Asian PGA Tour, and Jerome Delariarte, the top Filipino amateur who made it to the prestigious Michael Bonnalak Cup in Rome next year. Jerome earned that feat after finishing among the Top 6 in the recent Nomura Cup in Australia as part of the RP Team captained by NGAP vice president Admiral Louie Fernandez.



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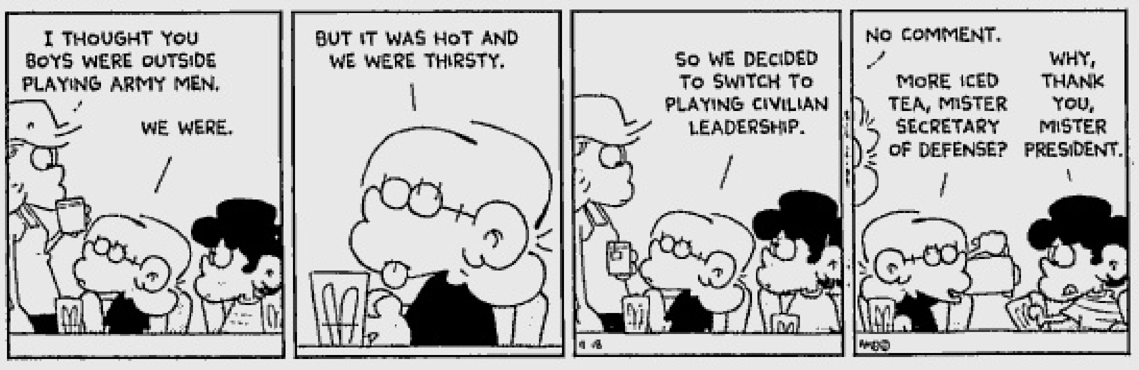
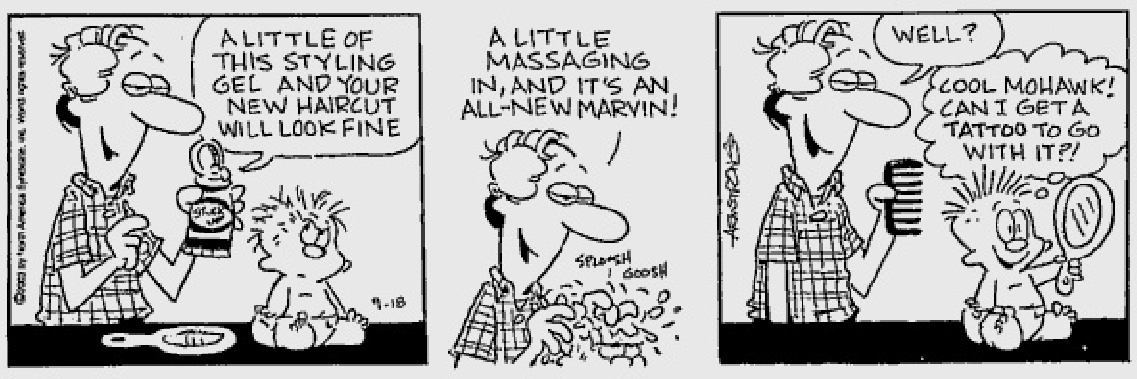
### FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I THOUGHT YOU BOYS WERE OUTSIDE PLAYING ARMY MEN.
WE WERE.
BUT IT WAS HOT AND WE WERE THIRSTY.
SO WE DECIDED TO SWITCH TO PLAYING CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP.
NO COMMENT.
MORE ICED TEA, MISTER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE?
WHY, THANK YOU, MISTER PRESIDENT.

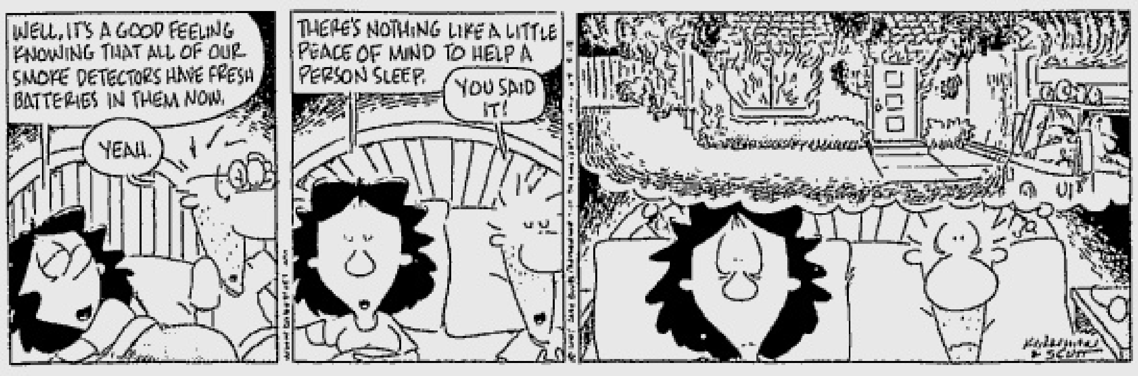
### MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


A LITTLE OF THIS STYLING GEL AND YOUR NEW HAIRCUT WILL LOOK FINE
9-18
A LITTLE MASSAGING IN, AND IT'S AN ALL-NEW MARVIN!
SPLOOSH
GOOSH
WELL?
COOL MOHAWK! CAN I GET A TATTOO TO GO WITH IT?!

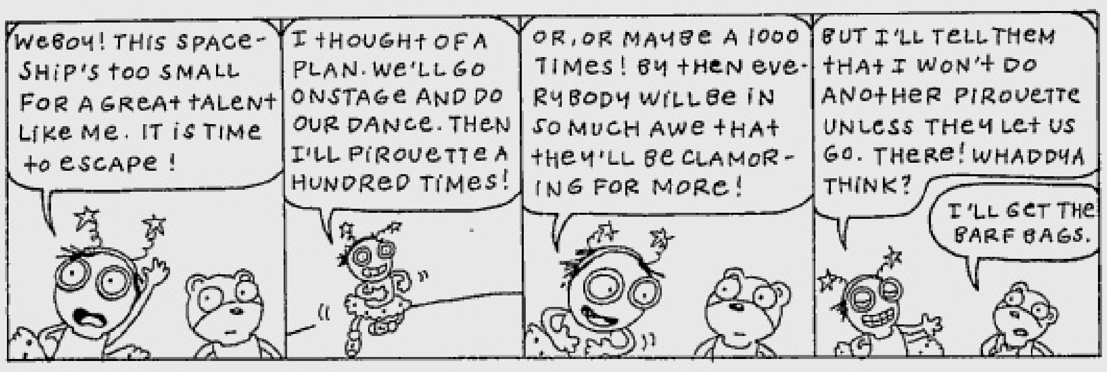
### BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WELL, IT'S A GOOD FEELING KNOWING THAT ALL OF OUR SMOKE DETECTORS HAVE FRESH BATTERIES IN THEM NOW.
YEAH.
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A LITTLE PEACE OF MIND TO HELP A PERSON SLEEP.
YOU SAID IT!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

### ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WEBOY! THIS SPACESHIP'S TOO SMALL FOR A GREAT TALENT LIKE ME. IT IS TIME TO ESCAPE!
I THOUGHT OF A PLAN. WE'LL GO ONSTAGE AND DO OUR DANCE. THEN I'LL PIROUETTE A HUNDRED TIMES!
OR, OR MAYBE A 1000 TIMES! BY THEN EVERYBODY WILL BE IN SO MUCH AWE THAT THEY'LL BE CLAMORING FOR MORE!
BUT I'LL TELL THEM THAT I WON'T DO ANOTHER PIROUETTE UNLESS THEY LET US GO. THERE! WHADDYA THINK?
I'LL GET THE BARF BAGS.

## HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** Essentially, you're thoughtful and serious about life. Naturally, you have lighthearted moments, but you guard your private world. You're capable of great success in this life. However, you try to avoid stress. Because of this, you might choose more modest goals. It is entirely your choice. Major changes await you this year.

**Birthdate of:** Jada Pinkett Smith, actress; James Gandolfini, actor; Greta Garbo, actress.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** You're full of bright ideas today. Unusual people cross your path now, and their energy stimulates you. You are full of witty retorts and clever comments.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** Expect to buy something rather unusual today. It might be something whimsical, or it could be a piece of modern art. All your financial negotiations are a tad reckless today.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** Discussions with bosses and authority figures surprise you today. No one is threatened by your ambition. On the contrary, you are encouraged to speak up.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** You find it easy to have a tolerant point of view about political and religious questions today. You might even feel sympathetic to arguments that you normally resist.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** Unexpected gifts and goodies can come your way today. This will probably happen through a friend or a group. Stay optimistic and keep your pockets open.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** Conversations with partners and close friends are lively and surprising today. People come up with bizarre things! That's just fine. This is a fun way to spice your day.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** Expect a few surprises at work today, especially dealing with foreign countries or distant places. Similarly, unexpected events related to publishing, the law and travel could take place.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** You feel flirtatious and sexy today. Although you can be quiet about it, in fact, you are the most passionate, intense sign of the zodiac. Today it shows!

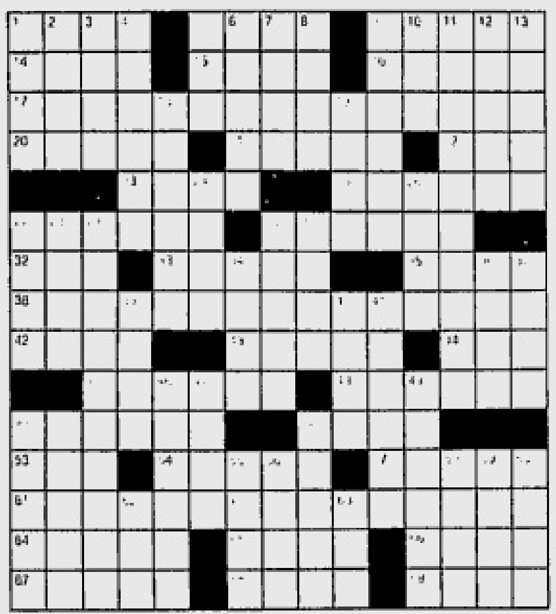
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** Things at home have been quite hectic lately. Today, unfortunately, is no exception. Expect surprise events and last-minute changes to your plans. Guard against minor accidents in the home.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** Exciting meetings with chums and siblings are a pleasant diversion today. You might even meet new acquaintances who are a bit eccentric, unorthodox and certainly very interesting.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Spontaneous spending is practically irresistible today. But do not let impulsive purchases make you broke. Try to stay on top of your financial scene.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** You feel highly independent and rebellious today. You don't want anybody telling you what to do. Those around you will do well to follow your cues and hints of behavior. You're not looking for trouble—you just want to do your own thing.

## DAILY CROSSWORD



By Mel Rosen
Marco Island, FL
9/18/03

**ACROSS**
1 Shuttle org.
5 "__ brillig..."
9 Chip dip
14 Sunday night NFL outlet
15 It can't be!
16 Computer communique
17 Start of a query
20 Finish
21 Ravi Shankar's instrument
22 Vert. counterpart
23 Church section
25 Real-life model for "Citizen Kane"
27 Undergraduate course
30 Sacristy
32 Punch-in-the-stomach sound effect
33 Reveal true feelings
35 911 respondents
38 Part 2 of query
42 Andean nation
43 Financial review
44 Mexican Mrs.
45 Recorded
48 "Cat Scratch Fever" singer
50 Forthrightness
52 Musical tag
53 Make a choice
54 Earth tone
57 "Dallas" matriarch
61 End of query
64 Actor Flynn
65 Word in Hope/Crosby titles
66 Staff member?
67 Panache
68 Concerning
69 Bartlett's abbr.

**DOWN**
1 CNN word
2 Arthur of tennis
3 Spit out
4 One-season plant
5 Mister turkey
6 "__ Line Is It Anyway?"
7 Freeze front?
8 Chimney buildup
9 Hush-hush
10 "Little Women" woman
11 Teary
12 Missile berths
13 Warning
18 Fill with dismay
19 College cheers
24 Popeye's __ Pea
26 God of war
27 Splendor
28 Libertine
29 Brazen boldness
30 Fashion magazine
31 Geraint's wife
34 Pitfall
36 Rotation
37 Sports fig.
39 Hedge or slush follower
40 Ristorante beverage
41 Pieces of Chopin
46 Amble
47 Foot part
49 Lead ore
50 Systems of rules
51 Leftward, at sea
52 Dubrovnik man
55 Wife of Zeus
56 Slaughter in Cooperstown
58 Author Uris
59 Division word
60 Fall garden?
62 Fa-la link
63 Bridal vow

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | O | O | S | E | ■ | S | T | A | C | ■ | D | I | E | S |
| A | D | O | P | T | ■ | A | I | D | A | ■ | E | C | R | U |
| S | I | Z | E | O | F | C | O | A | L | ■ | S | O | I | R |
| K | E | E | N | ■ | O | K | S | ■ | C | S | O | N | K | A |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | D | O | C | ■ | ■ | D | U | C | T | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| B | I | K | I | N | I | S | ■ | A | T | R | O | P | O | S |
| A | N | E | N | T | ■ | M | A | L | T | A | ■ | O | U | I |
| S | L | I | G | H | T | E | S | T | A | M | O | U | N | T |
| R | E | T | ■ | E | E | L | E | R | ■ | M | I | N | C | E |
| A | T | H | E | A | R | T | ■ | Y | I | E | L | D | E | D |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | F | I | R | [illegible] | ■ | ■ | S | D | S | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| B | I | A | F | R | A | ■ | S | P | A | ■ | T | A | L | L |
| O | O | N | A | ■ | P | A | P | E | R | M | O | N | E | Y |
| O | T | I | C | ■ | I | C | E | R | ■ | I | N | N | E | R |
| K | A | L | E | ■ | N | U | D | E | ■ | L | E | A | S | E |

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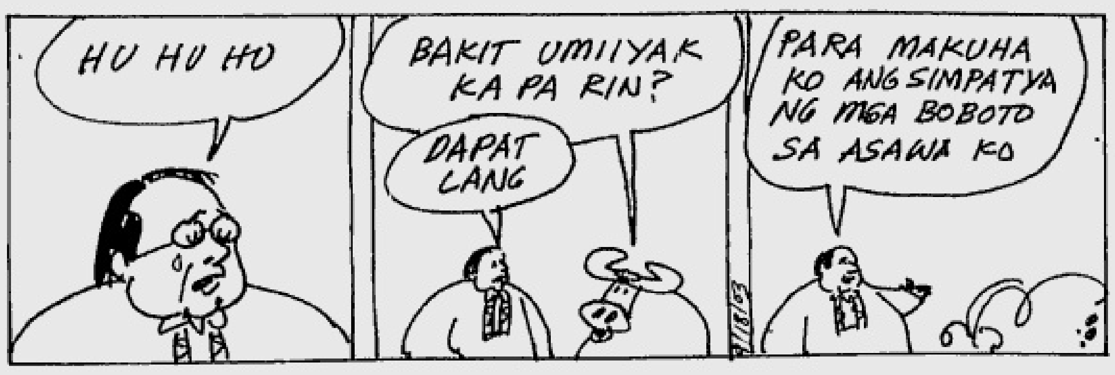
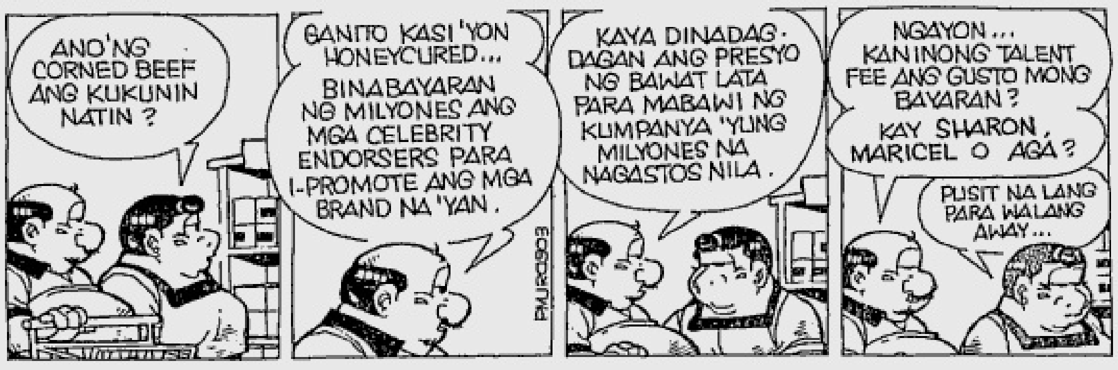
### A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HU HU HU
BAKIT UMIIYAK KA PA RIN?
DAPAT LANG
PARA MAKUHA KO ANG SIMPATYA NG MGA BOBOTO SA ASAWA KO

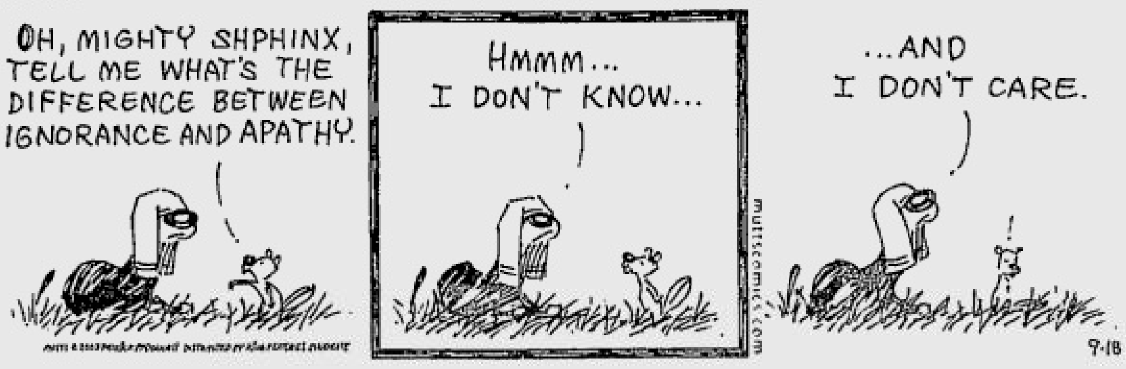
### PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO'NG CORNED BEEF ANG KUKUNIN NATIN?
GANITO KASI 'YON HONEYCURED...
BINABAYARAN NG MILYONES ANG MGA CELEBRITY ENDORSERS PARA I-PROMOTE ANG MGA BRAND NA 'YAN.
PMJR0903
KAYA DINADAGDAGAN ANG PRESYO NG BAWAT LATA PARA MABAWI NG KUMPANYA 'YUNG MILYONES NA NAGASTOS NILA.
NGAYON... KANINONG TALENT FEE ANG GUSTO MONG BAYARAN?
KAY SHARON, MARICEL O AGA?
PUSIT NA LANG PARA WALANG AWAY...

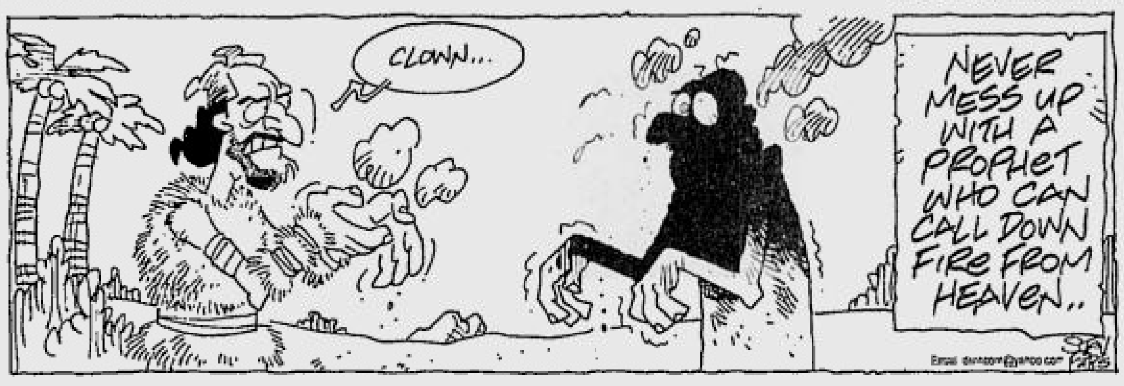
### MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, MIGHTY SHPHINX, TELL ME WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IGNORANCE AND APATHY.
HMMM... I DON'T KNOW...
...AND I DON'T CARE.
muttscomics.com
9-18

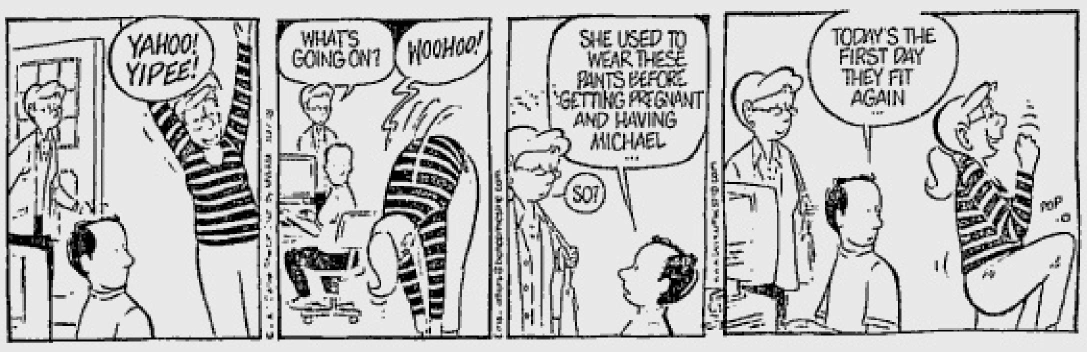
### DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


CLOWN...
NEVER MESS UP WITH A PROPHET WHO CAN CALL DOWN FIRE FROM HEAVEN..

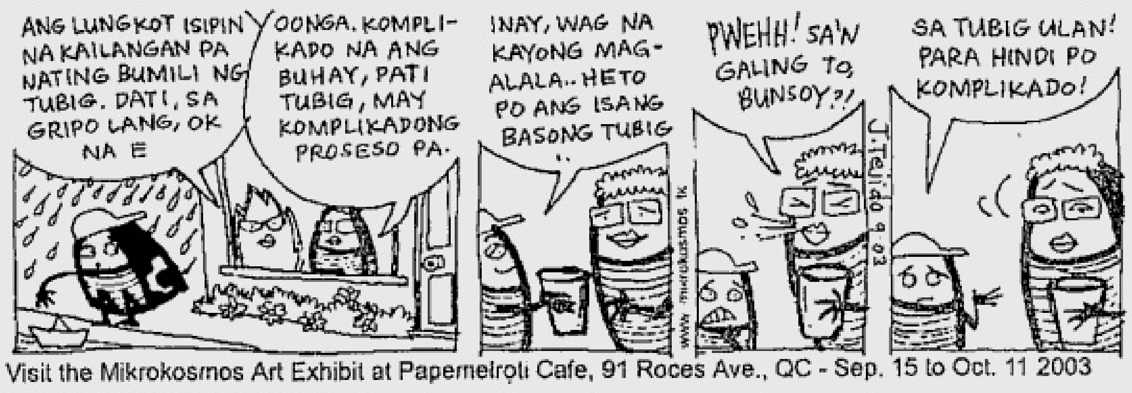
### BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


YAHOO! YIPEE!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WOOHOO!
SHE USED TO WEAR THESE PANTS BEFORE GETTING PREGNANT AND HAVING MICHAEL...
SO?
TODAY'S THE FIRST DAY THEY FIT AGAIN...
POP

### MIKROKOSMOS

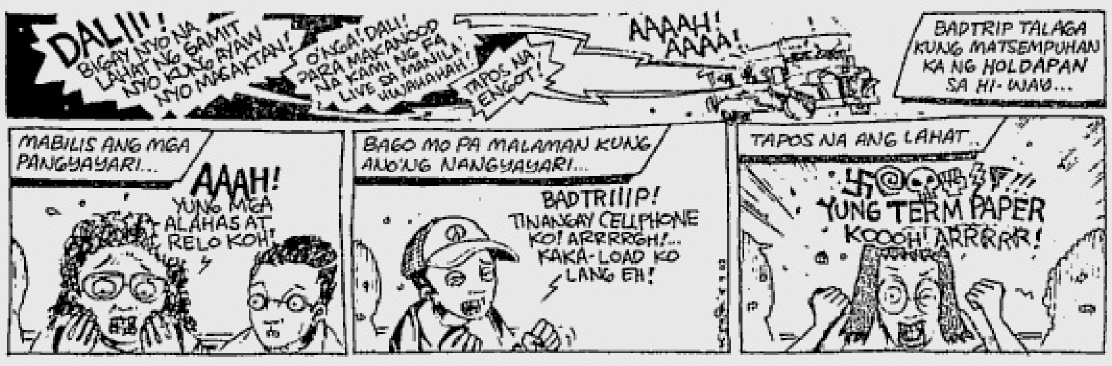
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG LUNGKOT ISIPIN NA KAILANGAN PA NATING BUMILI NG TUBIG. DATI, SA GRIPO LANG, OK NA E
OONGA. KOMPLIKADO NA ANG BUHAY, PATI TUBIG, MAY KOMPLIKADONG PROSESO PA.
INAY, WAG NA KAYONG MAG-ALALA.. HETO PO ANG ISANG BASONG TUBIG
www.mikrokosmos.tk
PWEHH! SA'N GALING TO, BUNSOY?!
J.Tejido 9.03
SA TUBIG ULAN! PARA HINDI PO KOMPLIKADO!

Visit the Mikrokosmos Art Exhibit at Papemelroti Cafe, 91 Roces Ave., QC - Sep. 15 to Oct. 11 2003

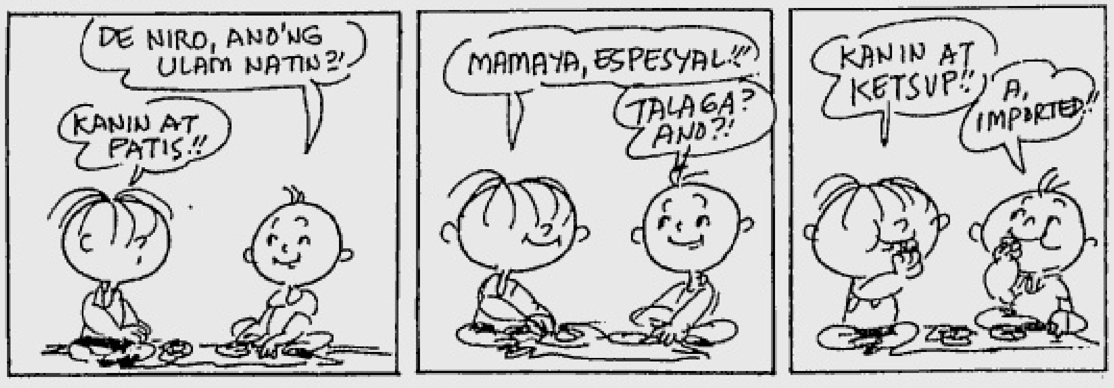
### KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


DALI!!! BIGAY NYO NA LAHAT NG GAMIT NYO KUNG AYAW NYO MASAKTAN!
O'NGA! DALI! PARA MAKANOOD NA KAMI NG FA LIVE SA MANILA! HUWAHAH!
TAPOS NA ENGOT!
AAAAH! AAAA!
BADTRIP TALAGA KUNG MATSEMPUHAN KA NG HOLDAPAN SA HI-WAY...
MABILIS ANG MGA PANGYAYARI...
AAAH! YUNG MGA ALAHAS AT RELO KOH!
BAGO MO PA MALAMAN KUNG ANO'NG NANGYAYARI...
BADTRIIIP! TINANGAY CELLPHONE KO! ARRRRGH!... KAKA-LOAD KO LANG EH!
TAPOS NA ANG LAHAT..
YUNG TERM PAPER KOOOH! ARRRRR!

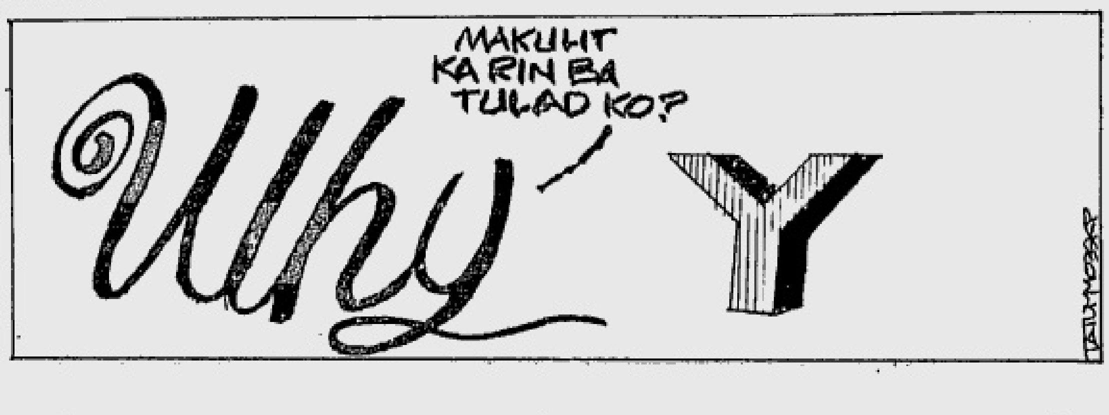
### LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, ANO'NG ULAM NATIN?!
KANIN AT PATIS!!
MAMAYA, ESPESYAL!!
TALAGA? ANO?!
KANIN AT KETSUP!!
A, IMPORTED!!

### TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MAKULIT KA RIN BA TULAD KO?
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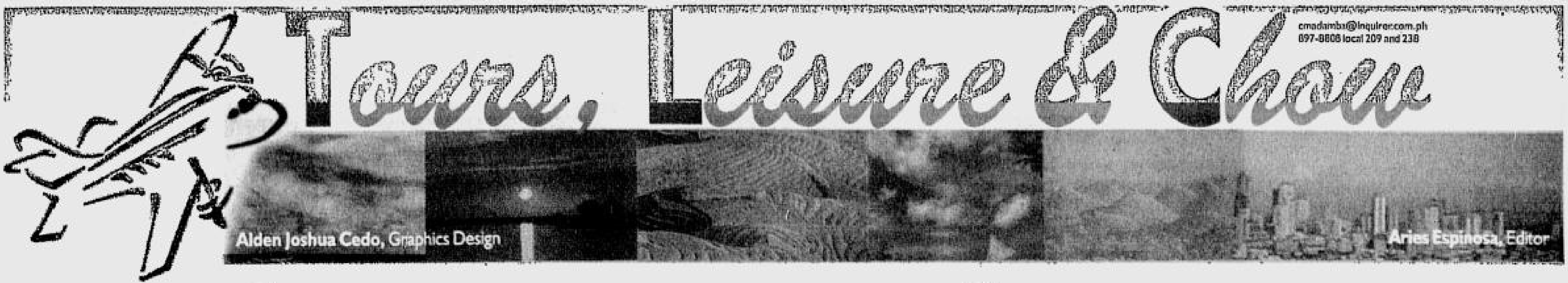

cmadamba@inquirer.com.ph
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Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design

Aries Espinosa, Editor

# Goose liver and mushrooms, most at Mandarin

THE TIVOLI, Mandarin Oriental, Manila's premier restaurant, sets the stage once again for the wondrous tandem of goose liver and mushrooms in a much-awaited food festival which unfolds for the fifth time from Sept. 15 to 28.

Using only the best goose liver imported from France and the freshest mushroom available, executive chef Norbert Gandler, with master chefs Humphrey Navarro and Andreas Schimanski, weave their culinary magic on two of Europe's most esteemed gastronomic treasures. The selection of intensely flavored entrees and mouthwatering appetizers include: Pan-fried Dutch veal loin with seared foie gras, crushed butternut squash, spinach and morel sauce; Roasted rack of Victorian spring lamb with tart tatin of caramelized onion and pan-fried goose liver with garlic confit and sauce piquant, and the popular goose liver sampler, which consists of Pan-fried goose liver, goose liver terrine on poached apple, goose liver wild mushroom ravioli and goose liver parfait with Port wine jelly served with smoked duck breast and mesclun greens tossed in raspberry dressing, among other delectable masterpieces.

Enjoyed since the 4th and 5th Egyptian dynasties before it became hugely popular in France, foie gras consists of the enlarged liver of a goose or duck that has been force-fed and fattened over a period of four to five months. This process gives duck liver an incomparably rich taste and velvety texture, the very qualities that make it one of the most revered dishes in haute cuisine.

The Tivoli's "Goose liver and Mushrooms" promotion is available for lunch and dinner (Monday to Friday), from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m., and dinner daily, from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at which time a pianist plays classic and Broadway hits. An extensive variety of red and white French, Californian and Australian wines including a special selection of sweet wines and champagne specifically suited for foie gras are also being offered by the glass to enhance one's dining experience.

## Where to Stop Where to GO

### A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

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www.marriott.com

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Dusit Hotel Nikko
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Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

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Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

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Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

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www.marcopolohotels.com

Hotel Veniz
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Tel. (074) 446-0700/fax (074) 446-0704

Hotel Supreme
113 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-2011 to 18 / Fax. (074) 442-2855

Skyrise Hotel
18 Dominican Road, Baguio City
Tel (074) 445-6834 to 36 /fax (074) 443-3897

The Peninsula Manila Hotel
Cor. Ayala Ave. & Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 810-3456/ Fax 815-4825

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarin-oriental.com

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com.ph

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
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Camp John Hay Manor
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Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza
Naguilian cor. Asin Road, Baguio City
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Fax. (074) 447-0494

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda Road, Baguio City
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Taal Vista Hotel
Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (046) 413-1000/fax. (046) 413-1225

For Feedback and inquiries, call
**899-4426 or 897-8808 loc 209**

**HIS EXCELLENCY** Thailand Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra (right) was the guest speaker at the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Convention held recently at Dusit Hotel Nikko. Prime Minister Shinawatra is being welcomed by Dusit Hotel Nikko's Thai guest services manager Maythinee Suksamai while Therese Samala, guest services manager, and Chiyuki Fujimoto, Dusit Hotel Nikko's general manager, looks on.

## ASTORIA PLAZA:

# Setting the new standard in urban living

THE ASTORIA Plaza, the newest first class serviced residential suites, combines all the space and comfort of home with the glamor of the high-life. Its modern, ocean-wave inspired edifice is indeed a sight to behold among the towering buildings of Ortigas.

Astoria Plaza's attractive one and two-bedroom suites are fully furnished with modern state-of-the-art appliances and boasts of its unique German-technology electronic door lock system, audio-video entry phone, cable television and electronic safe. Whether for business or for sheer pleasure, conducting meetings and keeping in touch in your very own suite is a breeze with our IDD/NDD facilities, data port and Internet access.

Part of the conveniences offered is the classy Café Astoria, where serene and tranquil surroundings compliment the gastronomical feasts especially laden for you. It offers a wide and tempting array of especially prepared international theme buffet and ala carte dishes guaranteed to titillate your distinguished palate and make you come back for more. It is open for breakfast until late night drinks.

Added features of staying in Astoria Plaza are the presence of a 56 kbps Internet access, complimentary breakfast buffet, use of health facilities and the pool, and a 10-percent discount on StressScape Spa. An overnight stay in a one-bedroom suite costs only P2,950 while a stay in a two-bedroom suite costs only P4,950 per night. Room rates are subject to service charge and government taxes.

Astoria Plaza's facilities include 9 function rooms perfectly suited for your conferences and business meetings, an executive business center, a 6 multi-level basement parking area with valet parking service, a spa and fitness center, an outdoor lap pool, a beauty salon, a cosmetic surgery clinic, laundry and valet facilities and a trendy clothes shop.

The Astoria Plaza is conveniently located at 15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. It is in close proximity to the Makati central business district and is within a short distance to top business addresses, academic institutions, shopping malls, entertainment facilities and sports facilities. The Astoria Plaza is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels & Resorts. For inquiries and reservations visit Astoria Plaza or call 687-1111.

## *South China Sea bounty at The Bellevue Hotel*

SAVOR the overflowing gifts of the ocean with The Bellevue Hotel's Bounty of the South China Sea Food Festival.

An abundance of seafood delights such as prawns, crabs, squids, mussels, fish and many more are available during dinner from Sept. 8 to 27. The carefully prepared menu includes an all-week salad and cold selection featuring Shrimp Salad Vinaigrette, Smoked Tanguigue, Baby Octopus and Seafood Cous-cous, among others.

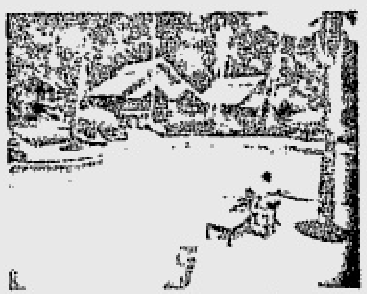
Café d' Asie offers hot dishes such as Baked Mussels, Stir-fried Flower Crab with Ginger Onion, Fried Prawns with Brown Sauce, Stir-fried Squid with Black Pepper Sauce and Fried Clams with Yellow Bean Sauce will make mouths water. Guests are also invited to sample Sautéed Mixed Seafood in Coconut Milk, Baked Fish Fillet in Hollandaise, Deep-fried Shrimp Filter and Seafood Creole. A special partnership with the only AAA-rated resort along Boracay's strip, the Boracay Regency Beach Resort and the Graham Marsh-designed Fairways and Bluewater Resort and Country Club will also give away free 2 nights and 3 days stays with breakfast to those who join the food festival.

With its flavorful and inventive cuisine, more and more people are flocking to The Bellevue for their power lunches and social meetings. Not only that, the hotel also represents only the best that business hotels offer—elegance, efficient service, friendly staff, convenient location, superb food, modern amenities and exciting activities—at affordable prices. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

# Sunshine on sale extended

DUE TO popular demand, the Sunshine on Sale promo of The Barceló Pearl Farm Island Resort has been extended to provide the resort's regular patrons with the opportunity to enjoy its facilities and extend their holiday fantasies for a special rate of P1,650 per person (based on twin sharing) in a Hilltop room.

The special offer includes roundtrip airport and boat transfers, welcome drink upon arrival, breakfast and lunch at the Maranao Restaurant and complimentary use of selected recreational facilities. The "Sunshine on Sale" limited offer can still be enjoyed until Nov. 15.



The resort rests on the quite side of Samal Island. The mountainous island of Samal is ideally located away from the typhoon area making it an idyllic place to worship the sun all year round. It is no wonder why this place has been known the "Island Garden City" of Smiles, because the area is blessed with fine weather most of the time.

For inquiries and reservations, call its Manila sales office at 867-2951/867-2847 and 867-1159. Visit www.barcelo-asia.com.

**EUROPEAN ART IMPRESSION EXHIBIT**

**FORMER First Lady Imelda Romualdez-Marcos cuts the ceremonial ribbon to formally open 'European Art Impression', a back-to-back exhibit of Menchu Arandilla and Geraldine Hernandez-Hugh at Bocarinos of the New World Renaissance Hotel. Shown with Ms Marcos are, from left, artist Hernandez-Hugh, New World Renaissance Hotel director of food and beverage Jeff Hobson (in suit, partly hidden), head of the Tuesday Group Angel Cacnio, artist Arandilla, Philippine Society for Cosmetic Surgery president Dr. Corazon Collantes-Jose, and other guest artists. 'European Art Impression' runs until Sept. 19. Elegant creative continental restaurant Bocarinos is located at level 2 of the New World Renaissance Hotel. It is open from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 to 10 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. On Saturdays, from 6 to 10 p.m. For more information and reservations, call 811-6888.**

# Balikbayan blues

"IMPORTED" *mestizas* and *mestizos* all (from left), Nancy Castiglione, twins Brad and Greg Turvey, and Anne Curtis

## VIEWFINDER

*Nestor U. Torre*

IN THE past, only a few Filipinos who grew up abroad come back here to work in the entertainment industry. These days, they're all over the place!

Fil-Ams, Fil-Brits, Fil-Aussies, Fil-Germans, Fil-Canadians, Fil-Swiss—they comprise a veritable Fil-United Nations of *mestizos* who now threaten to drive our homegrown talents to the periphery of the local show biz scene.

What's happened? How has this come to pass? And what will its effect be on entertainment, Pinoy style?

Well, it's happened because local show biz now pays a lot, enough for Filipinos living abroad to be lured back here, fully expecting to make a very comfortable living.

Also, job prospects abroad have been drying up, so local employment no longer appears to be that declassé. And, for a few *tisoys*, living here gives them the opportunity to return to their Filipino roots, and thus understand themselves better.

Well and good. Everyone's welcome to try his luck in show business here, regardless of where he comes from.

But there's also a debit side to this new equation, because the influx of so many tall, fair and aquiline-nosed *tisoys* has intensified the colonial mentality, or preference for things foreign, that still has, not just the local entertainment industry but also the country as a whole, in its stultifying grip.

So, we hope that local producers remind themselves that they're living in the Philippines, their audience is made up of Filipinos, and many of them aren't lookalikes of **Brad Pitt** and **Julia Roberts**.

Thus, producers should build up Pinoy-looking talents who can more credibly play characters whom most Filipinos can readily empathize with.

For their part, *balikbayan* talents should work harder at more fully integrating themselves into the local situation. Take the matter of language: Most *balikbayan* talents can't speak Filipino well, so they are limited to only a few roles, and generally make a spectacle of themselves when they speak in the national language.

Some of them lived and worked here for years and even decades, and still can't talk Filipino to save their lives. Well, they're the losers for it, because their careers don't get anywhere, and they eventually end up as veritable drones who inhabit the sidelines, not centerstage, of the local show biz industry.

So, the rule for all *balikbayan* talents who want to do well here is: Learn the language. Don't come here until you do. And, while you're at it, learn the culture and lifestyle, as well.

Also, take a good, hard look at yourself and see if you have more going for you other than your *tisoy* or "imported" looks. If all you've got is the foreign packaging, stay home.

There's much more to working in local show biz than looking like a star. Since Filipinos are natural singers and dancers, you've got to be truly outstanding at these performance areas to make it big here. As for acting, there's that language and culture consideration again.

If you persist in sticking out like a sore thumb, you can use it to hitchhike your way back to the US of A—or wherever it is you call home.

### Star Movies highlights

THURSDAY, Sept. 18, at 9 p.m., "Billy Madison": Billy, the dimwitted son of a millionaire, wastes his life guzzling beer and thinking up obscene pranks until his father threatens to leave him nothing. In order to earn his father's respect, Billy, who bribed his way through school, must pass all 12 grades in six months, or see a sycophantic assistant get his father's fortune. Billy struggles with the aide and his own idiocy to make good. Starring **Adam Sandler**.

Friday, Sept. 19, at 9 p.m., "How to Make an American Quilt": The interwoven memories of the wise members of a quilting bee become lessons in love, pain and emotional growth for a young woman (**Winona Ryder**) as the mature women work to make her a wedding quilt. A tribute to women's friendship. **Jocelyn Moorhouse**'s film also stars **Ellen Burstyn, Maya Angelou, Kate Capshaw, Alfre Woodard** and **Kate Nelligan**.

Saturday, Sept. 20, at 9 p.m., "US Marshalls": In this sequel to "The Fugitive," **Tommy Lee Jones**' character chases a double-murder suspect (**Wesley Snipes**) who flees when the plane they're on plunges into a river. The fugitive vows never to get caught and races to find the real killer before the marshall's elite team catches him.

Sunday, Sept. 21, at 11:15 p.m., "Novocaine": **Steve Martin** plays Frank, a dentist who's living the American Dream. But his perfectly managed life quickly unravels when a new patient (**Helena Bonham-Carter**) settles seductively into his dentist chair.

Before long, drugs are missing from Frank's office, and he's wanted for drug trafficking and murder. As he flees, Frank learns that he's the victim of an elaborate con scheme, and plunges into the shadowy world of drugs and violence in a desperate bid to prove his innocence.

# Kris: I can afford...

From page A26

Competing in the pilot episode of the new season are comedians Long Mejia, Brod Pete, John Lapuz, Dominic Ochoa, Onyok Velasco and Smokey Manaloto.

At the end of Level 3, the winning contestant will be asked to choose between taking his prize money and showcase home and competing for Level 4 the next day. The contestant will bring home P25,000 and another showcase if he passes Level 4.

In Level 5, the contestant has a chance to bag P500,000 and three more showcases. Level 6, which is the final level, can win him P1 million.

"I hope the viewers will find the show exciting because its conceptualization gave staff members too much stress," said Kris.

She said each contestant is asked to sign a waiver and an information sheet to determine whether he or she is capable of performing in the physical round.

She said ordering a contestant to swim in an eight-foot tank, drink a century egg-flavored milkshake, or to have his armpits, chest and legs waxed are only some of the challenges the show's producers have prepared.

"Actually, *naaawa ako sa* contestants," Kris said. "But my producers told me that the very fact that they (contestants) said yes, they know what they are getting into."

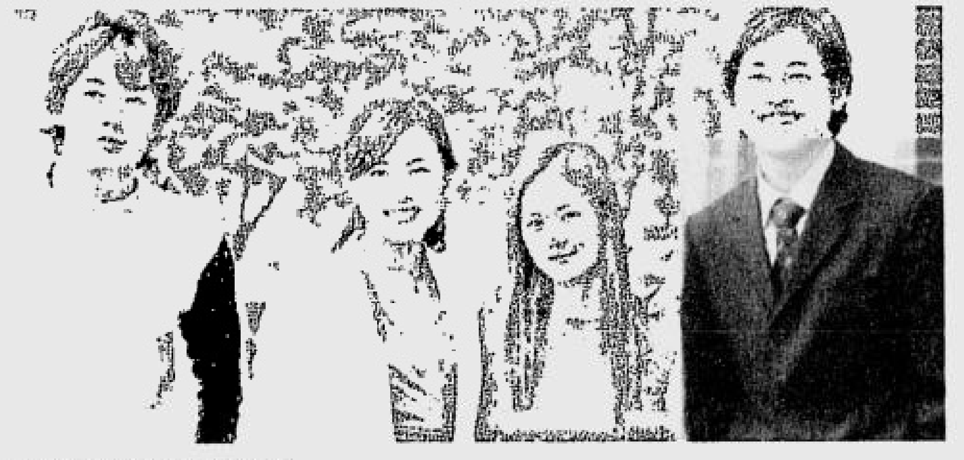
She said they are even considering making the first contestant to reach Level 6 to bungee-jump from one of the tall buildings in Metro Manila. "The question is, is he willing to do it for a million pesos," she said.

# 3 new 'chinovelas' start on GMA 7

STARTING Sept. 15, GMA 7 brings its viewers three *chinovelas*.

In "Secretly in Love," rich girl Wang Jing has set her eyes on handsome, brooding Hsui Li, a talented young pianist. But because she's too shy to reveal her feelings, Wang Jing disguises herself as a young man and enrolls at his all-boys school. They even end up as roommates. Daily at 3 p.m.

Right after "Secretly in Love" comes "Love Talks." When Xu Nuo is caught in traffic on her way to a job interview, she desperately borrows the cell phone of a handsome young businessman who is in a limousine beside her taxi. But before she can give him back his phone, the green light goes on and off they go on their respective ways. To her surprise, the man is advertising executive Anson Gao, the one who will conduct her interview! "Love Talks" starts at 3:30 p.m.



THE STARS of "My Love Cindy"

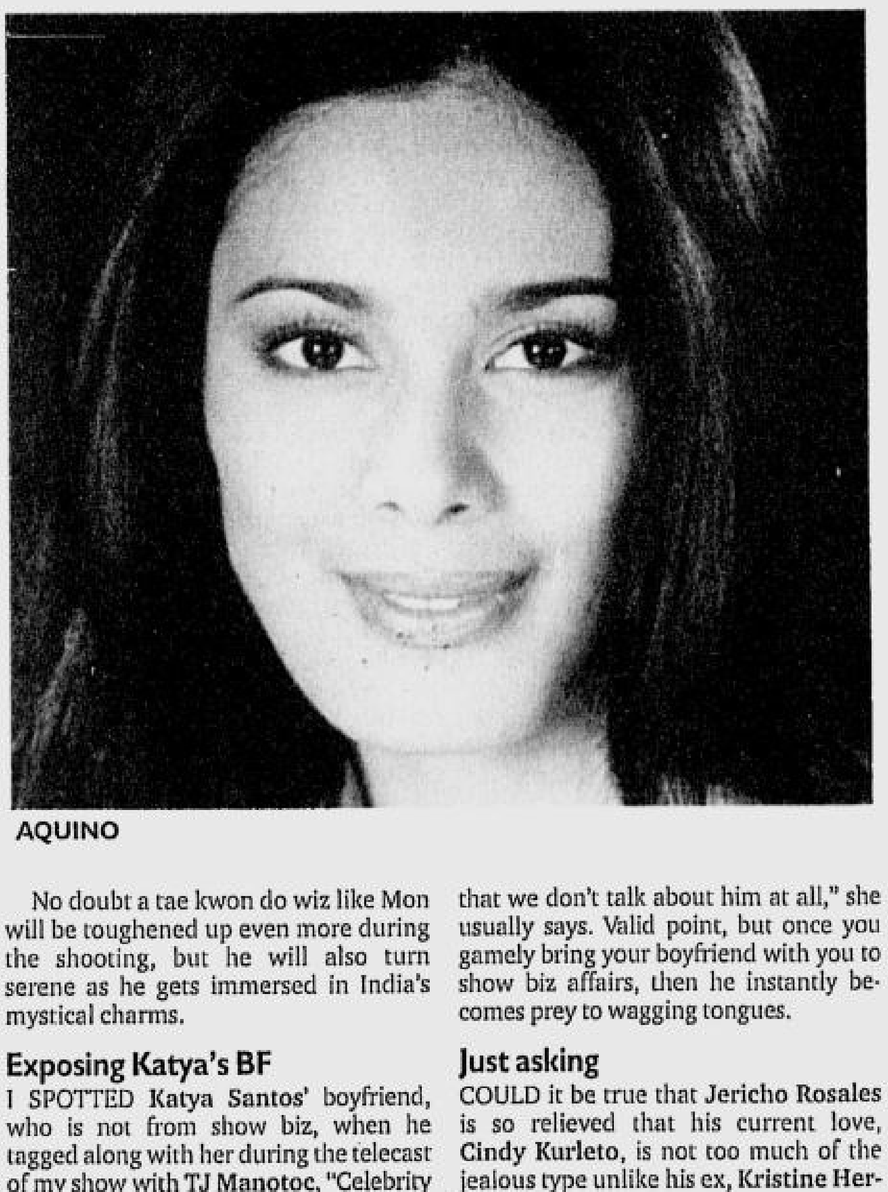
At 5:45 p.m. is "My Love Cindy." Song-Yi' s mortal enemy is the popular girl in school, Hee-Won, who knows that she's beautiful and who always gets the boys that Song-Yi likes, except for one. A new guy in school enters the scene and becomes an instant heartthrob. But he has his eyes only for boyish Song-Yi, who rescues him from trouble. But Hee-Won won't give up.

The three tales of love are shown Mondays to Fridays on GMA, the station that combines love and laughter.

# Angel Aquino on her man: I've found what I've been looking for

## DOLLY WOOD

*Dolly Ann Carvajal*



AQUINO

I HAD a swell time bonding with **Angel Aquino** at my "second home," Friends St. Francis Square. We watched the gig of Norby, Angel's musician boyfriend of three blissful years.

I witnessed how they fell in love when Norby was still part of **Paco Arespacochaga**'s defunct band Skin. Considering the legions of men who have a big crush on Angel, it's quite surprising that she has stuck it out with Norby all this time.

She beamed, "He takes really good care of me so why should I even look at others? I don't want to start from A again. It's so tiring. I've found what I'm looking for. To avoid temptation, I don't go out unless he has a gig."

The sought-after supermodel turned into a high school girl as she proudly applauded every number of Norby. She exclaimed, while pretending to pinch his cheeks from afar, "He's so cute! Like a little boy!"

After his show, Norby approached us. "I was looking all over for you," he told his Angel. The look on their faces was more than enough to make me wish that another angel named Cupid would hit me bulls-eye in time for my birthday.

### Onin, Edith reconcile

**NIÑO Muhlach** and his wife **Edith** have reconciled. And what better way to celebrate their "reunion" than by doing something they love to do together, which is theater.

The happily reunited Onin and Edith are back where they started, not just in the domestic front but also in their careers. It was in the world of theater that their romance flourished a few years ago.

Onin proudly said, "I will be directing Villa Teatro's version of 'Noli Me Tangere,' which will be staged at the UP Diliman University Theater on Sept. 19, 20 and 21. Edith will be playing Maria Clara. **Mon Confiado** will be Ibarra. **Ynez Veneracion** is also in the cast.

"*Nakakaaliw*," he added with a laugh, "*kasi* Ynez is my ex and Mon is Ynez's ex."

The former wonder boy-turned -director was obviously in high spirits. And it's all because his love for theater and his wife have never been abloom as it is now.

### Janet coming home

AT the height of her career, **Janet McBride** left show biz in a huff. Rumors were circulating back then that she was pregnant with **Mo Twister**'s baby. But it turned out that she never gave birth and that all she really wanted was a quiet private life away from the maddening crowd so she flew off to Australia, where her family is based.

Perhaps Janet can set the record straight once and for all when she comes home to be part of the entourage of **Julius Babao** and **Tin-Tin Bersola**'s wedding on Dec. 8.

### Monsour in India

MONSOUR del Rosario texted me all the way from India, where he is now shooting a martial arts movie to be released around Asia. Mon's message said, "The movie's tittle is 'Aan' which means pride in English. Other martial artists with me are **Akshay Kumar, Sunil Shetty** and **Paresh Rawal**. My role is a hit man. Sort of the right hand man of a mafia guy. A shaolin kung fu monk, **Hung Yu**, is also a hit man in the film. I'm learning a lot here. India has such a rich and interesting culture!"

No doubt a tae kwon do wiz like Mon will be toughened up even more during the shooting, but he will also turn serene as he gets immersed in India's mystical charms.

### Exposing Katya's BF

I SPOTTED **Katya Santos**' boyfriend, who is not from show biz, when he tagged along with her during the telecast of my show with **TJ Manotoc**, "Celebrity Dat Com." He's the boyish type who seems content in being relegated to the background as he shows his support for Katya in her career. Although Katya is not wary of exposing him to the public eye, she remains elusive when she is asked about him during interviews. "He's not in the limelight so it's better that we don't talk about him at all," she usually says. Valid point, but once you gamely bring your boyfriend with you to show biz affairs, then he instantly becomes prey to wagging tongues.

### Just asking

COULD it be true that **Jericho Rosales** is so relieved that his current love, **Cindy Kurleto**, is not too much of the jealous type unlike his ex, **Kristine Hermosa**?

I'm sure Tin has her redeeming qualities and Echo won't let all their wonderful memories just fade into oblivion.

Speaking of Tin, how true are murmurs that she and **Marvin Agustin** have frequent interludes in a high-end exclusive resort in Batangas? Nothing really wrong with that since they are both fancy-free. Maybe they just want to have some R& R together, even if some malicious minds insinuate that it's something rated R.

***

Will stand-up comic **Ate Glow** carry out her plan to quit show biz and enroll in a theater school in Canada? The last time I spoke to the "other president," she told me that she's considering a new life. "New York is quite saturated already when it comes to theater, so I'm thinking of studying in Canada instead," she said. But she's on a roll these days. Would she just let all the opportunities pass her by? She thought long and hard and said, "I can always come back. I just feel the urge to expand my horizons. But of course, I will still have to discuss it with my manager. My schedule is so full. I don't know how I will get away yet." I chided her, "You are so good at disguising yourself so maybe you would be able to leave without being recognized." She laughed, "Don't give me ideas!"

***

How true are whispers that **Pia Guanio** is considering moving to GMA-7? Pia is no longer given the exposure she deserves on ABS-CBN 2 and is relegated to its cable station. A beauty and brains woman like Pia, though, will shine wherever she's thrust into.

### Personal

*DAGHAN salamat*, **Loloy Maybuena** for going out of your way on such short notice.

Greetings to **Paul Candelaria, Ted Po, Frannie, Marianing, Alex B., Jun** and **Ritchie Rivera** of General Santos City.

Profuse thanks to an uncle I've missed, **Bob Hernandez**. Bobsy, you gave me one of my first ideas about what being cool is.

*For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com*

# Kyla, Jimmy in Adamson concert

SHOW TIME

RECORDING artists Jimmy Bondoc and Kyla perform on Saturday, Sept. 27, 6 p.m., at the ST Quadrangle of Adamson University Manila. The campus gig is a benefit show for the construction of Santuario de San Vicente in Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

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MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13

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異度空間
LESLIE CHEUNG KAREN A LAM
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**September 24, Wednesday**

## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

| MANILA | |
|---|---|
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA |
| ODEON | X-MEN 2 |
| ODEON-2 | BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN |
| ROBEN | BOLD STAR |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE |

| QUEZON CITY | |
|---|---|
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAN |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SI |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATA |
| CORONET A | FIRST TIME |
| CORONET B | A MAN APAR |
| QUEZON-1 | BERTUD NG PUTI |
| REMAR | X-MEN |
| REMAR-2 | BOLD STA |

| NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA | |
|---|---|
| A | FIRST TIM |
| B | KALAB T |
| C | |

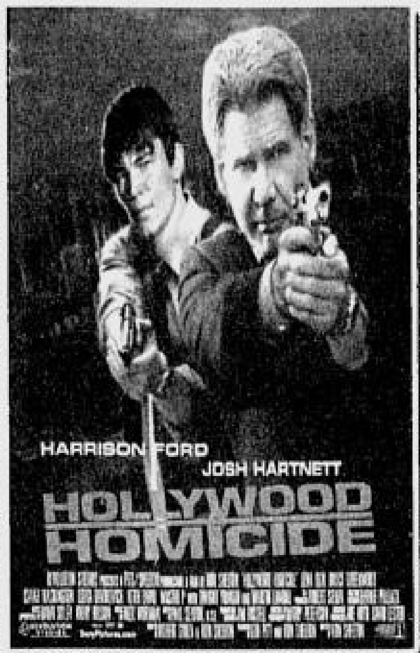
| MANDALUYONG CITY | |
|---|---|
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| CINEMA-2 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |

| CAINTA RIZAL | |
|---|---|
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | KALABIT |
| CINEMA-2 | ASBOOBS |
| CINEMA-3 | DADDY DAY CARE |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | S.W.A.T |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | PINAY PIE |
| CINEMA-6 | PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN |
| CINEMA-7 | BRAZEN WOMEN |
| CINEMA-8 | WWW.XXX.COM |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | FREDDY VS JASON |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| CINEMA-12 | MEDALLION |
| CINEMA-14 | BASIC |
| CINEMA-15 | FIRST TIME |

| LORES | |
|---|---|
| CINEMA-2 | SENSUAL ISLAN |
| CINEMA-3 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |

| NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN | |
|---|---|
| (LAS PINAS) | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| CINEMA-1 | FIRST TIME |
| CINEMA-2 | ASBOOBS |
| CINEMA 4 | |

| UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL | |
|---|---|
| (PARANAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |



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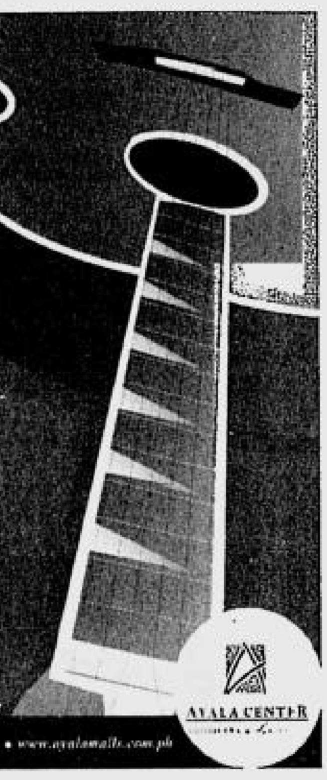
Cinema 2--10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

Cinema 6--10:10, 12:50, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

Cinema 4--10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

For movie inquiries, pls. call the movie access no.: 635-5555 MTRCB Rating PG-13

*Acoustic Nights at Greenbelt*



**Paolo Santos**
Aug. 27, 7pm
Greenbelt 3 Food Choices
Oct. 1, 7pm
Greenbelt 2

**Nyoy Volante with Mannos**
Sept. 3, 7pm
Greenbelt 3 Food Choices
Sept. 11, 7pm
Greenbelt 2

**Nina**
Sept. 23, 7pm
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**Gérard Depardieu & Elodie Bouchez**

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **2 FAST 2 FURIOUS**<br>**R13**<br>12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 | **FREDDY VS. JASON**<br>**R13**<br>1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00 | **BASIC**<br>**PG13**<br>1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10 |
| **MEDALLION**<br>**PG13**<br>1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 | **S.W.A.T.**<br>**PG13**<br>12:00, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40 | **HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE**<br>**PG13**<br>12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:55, 10:20 |

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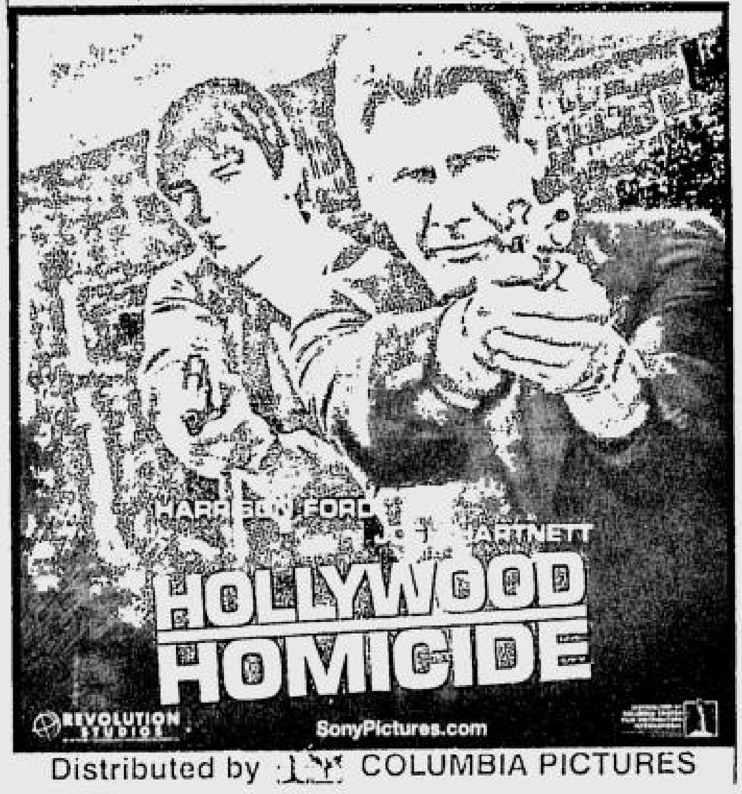

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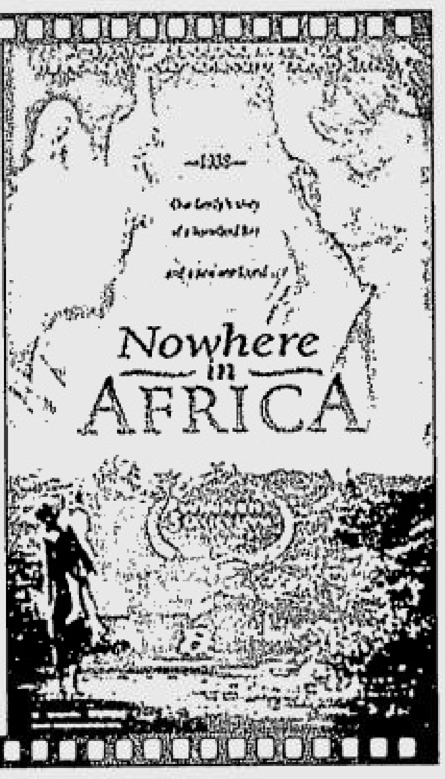

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**PG13**

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# ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

*Editor* Louie C. Camino

NEW SEASON. Kris launches more challenging "Game K N B?"

# Kris: I can afford to give Joey a Porsche

By Marinel R. Cruz

"I CAN afford to buy him a Porsche and pay for it in cash."

That was television host and movie actress Kris Aquino reacting to talk that she recently bought her boyfriend, Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez, a Porsche sports car.

Kris denied buying Joey a Porsche, of course, but quickly added that she has the money for it, "*kaya hindi na kailangang i-loan.*"

Joey, however, claimed he does not have a Porsche, but that he would gladly accept one as a gift even if it does not come from Kris.

MAYOR Marquez PDI FILE

"*Kayang lang wala namang magbibigay*," he joked. "*Kahit* Porsche to good *man lang*."

Kris recently purchased a home at Hillsborough in Alabang, in Muntinlupa City, which is right next to Parañaque in southern Metro Manila. She will reportedly campaign for Joey, who is said to be bent on running for congressman in the 2004 elections.

During lunch with the movie press yesterday, Kris herself hinted that she might also run for public office, saying, "I could also be an elected official in 2010."

But right now, she is busy hosting her top-rating game show on ABS-CBN, "Game K N B?" which will start its second season on Wednesday by introducing all-new challenges and bigger prices for winners.

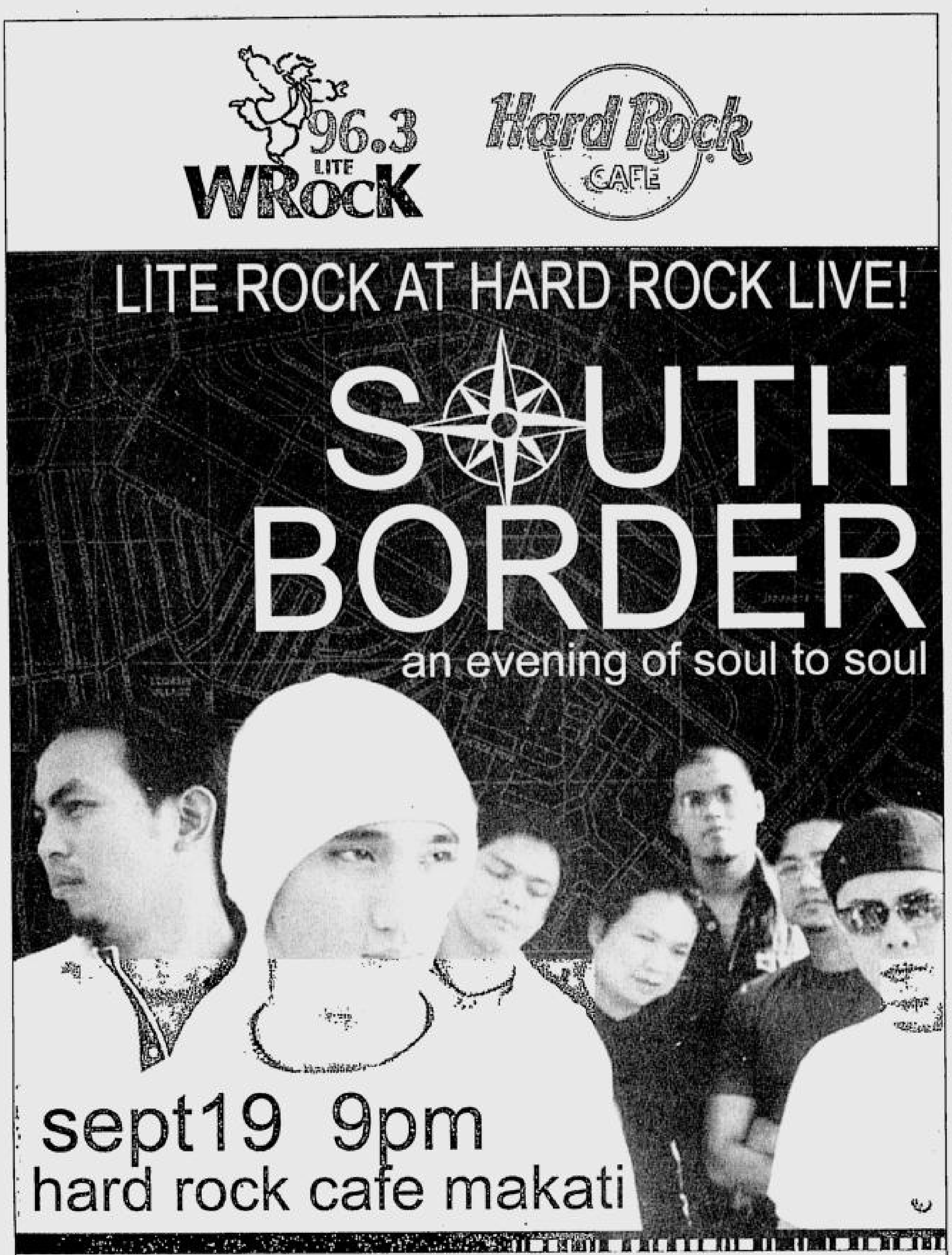
Kris explained that there are now three elimination levels in the game show, which is now called "Next Level Na! Game K N B?"

She said eight contestants will compete in "Tsamba," the first level. Those who pass this level will compete in the physical round, or what Kris called the "Tapang" level, where two of the best contestants will be picked.

Both contestants will compete in the "Talino" level, where each will have to answer questions in categories picked by his or her opponent.

The contestant who successfully passes through these levels will bring home P50,000, win P50,000 for a charitable institution, plus a personalized showcase, said Kris.

KRIS/ A24



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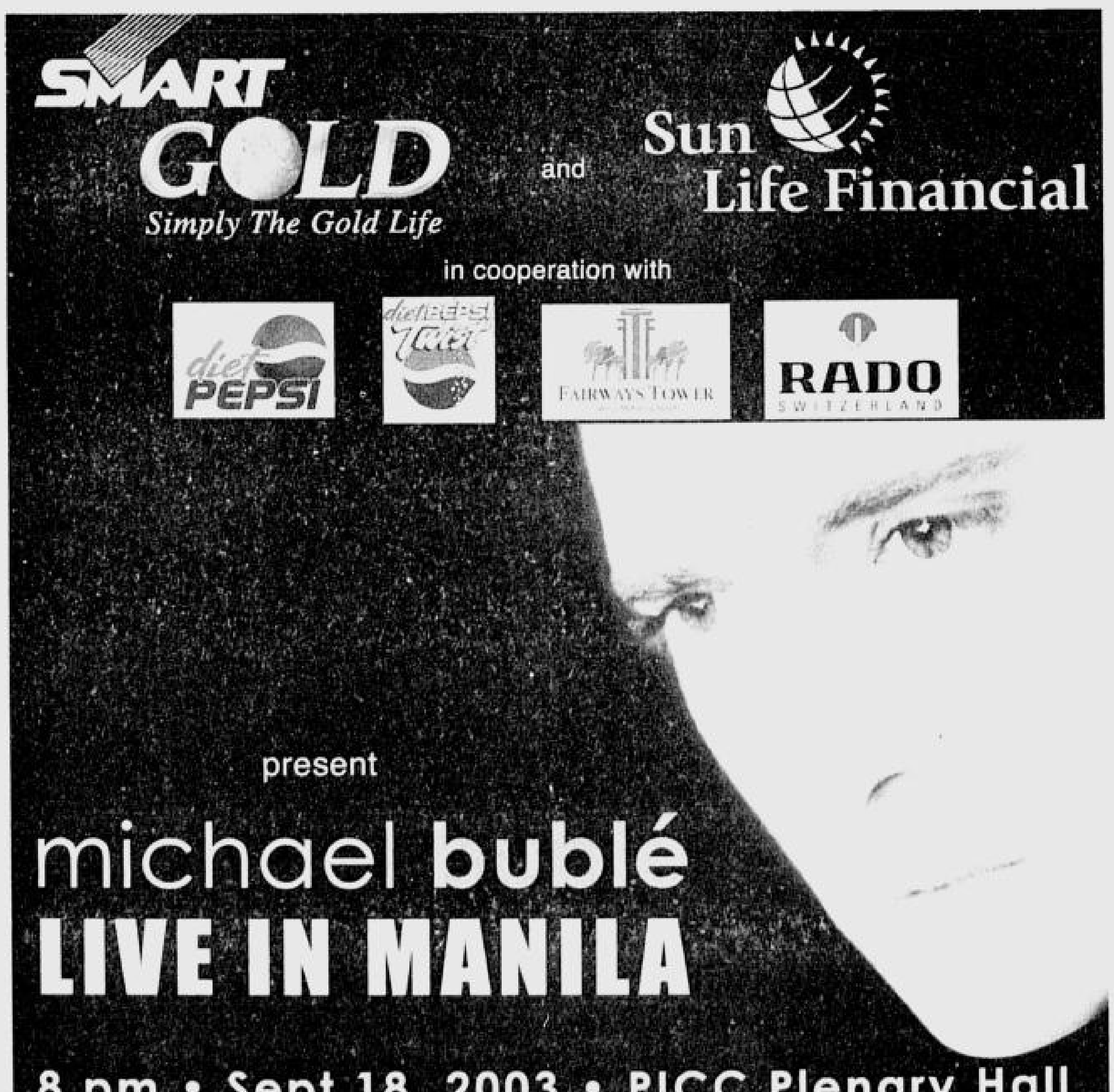

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Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

| | |
|---|---|
| Ali 1 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| Ali 2 | 1ST TIME |
| Ali 3 | THE MEDALLION |
| Ali 4 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| Ali 5 | FREDDIE VS. JASON |
| Ali 6 | S.W.A.T |
| Ali 7 | BASIC |

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| SEPT 21 | UAAP: FINAL FOUR |
| SEPT 25 | UAAP: FINAL FOUR |
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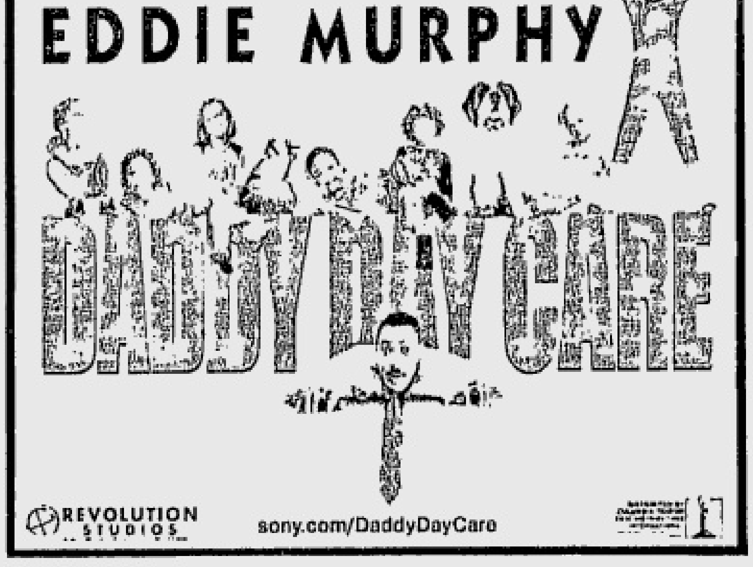

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# 8-month BOP deficit swells to $653M

## INDICATORS

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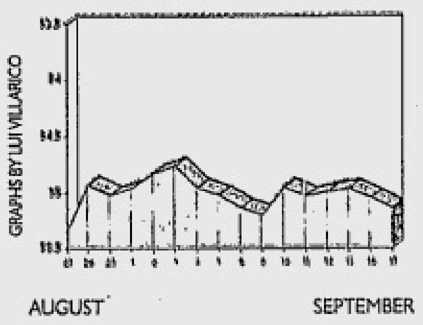

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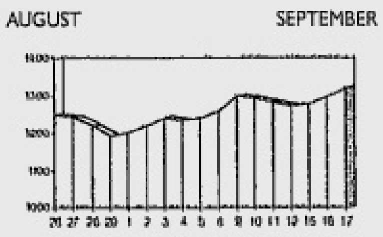
¥ 116.23 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 17, 2003

**GOLD: $ 372.70-373.20**
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 17, 2003

### STOCK MARKET

### Stocks up for 3rd straight day

**PSE COMPOSITE INDEX**



(See stock market report on Page B2)

THE STOCK MARKET jumped 1.95 percent yesterday, ending up for a third straight day, as it tracked Wall Street's rally after the US Federal Reserve decided to keep interest rates low.

SM Prime Holdings Inc., the country's largest shopping mall developer, led the active list and rose 1.61 percent to P6.30.

The main index closed 25.20 points higher at 1,320.61. It is up 29.67 percent so far this year.

Turnover dropped slightly to P708.2 million from Tuesday's P718.5 million.

"What lifted market sentiment was the bullish performance in Wall Street as the Federal Reserve said interest rates will remain low for a considerable period," said BPI Securities stocks analyst Roberto Cano.

"Next resistance is at 1,340."

In the coming days, players were likely to look at foreign markets for direction given the absence of firm local leads, analysts said.

They said the issue of the budget deficit was now less worrisome, with the government expected to hit its full-year goal of P202 billion despite likely missing its August shortfall target.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said yesterday the government exceeded its spending target in August by at least P5 billion as it settled long-pending accounts.

Traders said the continued run-up of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), the largest telecoms firm, also helped push the market higher.

*Reuters*

By Clarissa S. Batino

**WEAK dollar inflow in August caused a deficit of $414 million in the country's balance-of-payments position, pushing the eight-month shortfall to $653 million.**

The BOP deficit in August was 128 percent bigger than the $181-million deficit a year ago while the eight-month deficit reversed the $903-million surplus in the same period last year, documents from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

"There was small inflow from overseas workers alongside weak exports, based on the July numbers. We also had some repayments. This is why we had a BOP deficit in August," BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in an interview.

Scarce dollar inflow in August pushed the peso to a low of 55.60 to $1 during the month. Since then, the local currency had been gradually recovering to the high 54:$1 level. Yesterday, the local currency closed at 55.15 to a dollar.

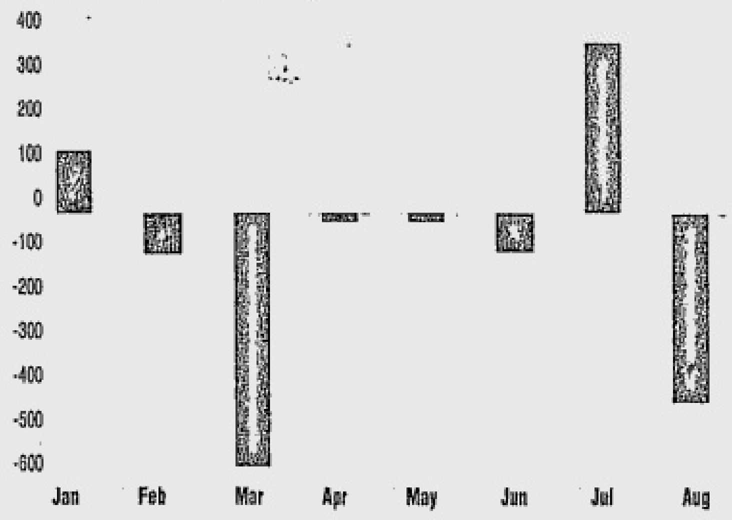
In July, the external payments yielded a surplus of $377 million and this reduced the seven-month deficit to $239 million from $616 million in the first half. In end-2002, the BOP surplus stood at $615 million.

Tetangco said the BSP was reviewing the BOP and current account targets this year and next due to the slowdown in exports in July that saw receipts contracting by 7.9 percent against the previous year and leaving the seven-month growth at only 0.5 percent.

This year, the BSP estimated that the BOP deficit would reach $1.13 billion while the current account would yield a surplus of $2.356 billion. In 2004, the forecast was for the BOP to hit a surplus of $1.2 billion and the current account surplus to contract to $2 billion.

Closely-watched by investors, the BOP indicates the country's ability to settle its obligations and is influenced by two items. One is the current account, which reflects mainly movement in trade, and the other is the capital and financial account that mirrors the flow of investment and borrowings.

**BALANCE OF PAYMENTS**
January to August 2003, in US$ millions



# US firms seek easing of RP ownership restrictions

By Michelle V. Remo

AMERICAN businessmen have encouraged the Philippine government to ease restrictions on foreign ownership of companies to finally allow the entry of interested firms into the country and thus increase foreign direct investments.

The US-Asean Business Council, an American private business organization focusing on promoting trade and investment between the United States and countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, said some American firms have expressed interest in locating to the Philippines but policy restrictions here made them reluctant to push through.

DRISCOLL

"Many companies are willing to form joint ventures (with Filipino firms), but there are also those who want to have full ownership due to the sensitivity of their businesses," said Robert Driscoll, chair of the council's US-Philippines Business Committee, in a briefing with reporters.

Driscoll said the group did not intend to impose on the Philippine government to change its Constitution and scrap the provision requiring a maximum of 40-percent ownership of foreigners on companies located here. Nonetheless, he said, the group hoped the Philippines could find a way to address the foreign ownership issue.

The group met with House Speaker Jose De Venecia yesterday morning to discuss various proposals on how to boost American investments in the country, such as through a more relaxed foreign ownership policy, and to raise concerns of American firms here.

Besides the issue on company ownership, the business council has noted improvements in the country's policies that are expected to benefit the local business environment. In particular, Driscoll said American firms were pleased with the government's decision requiring courts to limit the issuance of temporary restraining orders.

The group also said that a study on the proposed free-trade agreement between the Philippines and the United States was in the offing, although the trade areas to be covered by the study would still have to be identified.

"We believe it will be beneficial for the Philippines and the United States to assess the possibility of a free trade agreement," Driscoll said.

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# To the VAT cave

**BREAKTIME**

*Conrado R. Banal III*

* * *

ONE fine day, an unusual day when he is not sleeping, Rep. Herminio Teves finds the vigor to file a bill in the House of Representatives.

Nobody knows if Teves catches ideas while he dreams during the session, but his bill seeks to impose a 10-percent value-added tax (VAT) on power generation. Again!

Another law, called the Epira, or the Energy and Power Industry Reform Act, already took away the VAT on that particular business some time ago.

Many moons later, apparently fresh from a nap in the bat cave, Teves claims that the law is wrong. It is, he says, unconstitutional. Really?

And all along, everybody thought that it is the Supreme Court, and nobody else, which decides what is, and what is not, constitutional.

* * *

ANYWAY, such is the situation in the power sector. Nobody knows if we are coming or going. Rules of the game can change faster than you can say "Jose Pidal."

It is not good for the sector, and if it is not good for this critical sector, it is not good for all of us, including manufacturers, housewives, or even the likes of Vicky Toh.

Believe me, right at this moment, we are staring at another power crisis in the face. We are going to have a shortage—again—three or four years from now.

Today, sure, thanks to all the, er, "sideline" from its various power generation projects in the past, the state-owned Napocor has an OVER-capacity.

But we are using up more and more power, with the demand rising by 7 to 8 percent every year. Let's say we fail to build a single plant now. Well, hello, blackouts!

OUR problems in the power sector, unfortunately, do not only involve a future of hours upon hours of power outages. They spill over to our traditional hobby called politics.

Supposedly, the main proponent of a controversial power project was one of the biggest, er, "contributors" to the famous Jose Pidal bank accounts.

It is 11 o'clock in the evening of the Jose Pidal hearings in the Senate, and do you know where Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson is?

No, from what I heard, contrary to his releases, he is not in Australia. Actually, he is in the United States, cooking up something with a deal chef known as Mark Jimenez.

That's the guy who claims to hold some explosive documents, showing a big pay-off over that controversial power project, amounting to some 14 million sparkling dollars.

* * *

ONLY $2 million of the bribe money, supposedly, went to a favorite secretary in this cute administration of Gloriaetta.

Based on documents from the office of Sen. Serge Osmeña III, some $4 million went to somebody's famous bank account under a fictitious name.

I know that you normally do not trust those with Roman numerals after their names, but Serge and myself are only quoting from Mark the Shark.

It was the same Mark the Shark who claimed, before he went on an extended vacation to the US, that another $1 million went to Napocor as "for the boys."

Now you wonder where the rest, amounting to a handsome $7 million, actually went. Mark the Shark forgot to say. Hmm.

* * *

BUT let's go back to the VAT proposal, which is a throwback to the time when mankind dwelled in caves with bats. I'm afraid it confuses the hell out of everybody in business.

You see, before the birth of Epira, the power sector was in total chaos. This was bad, as it was, for the government plan to return the business to private groups.

With the state monopoly Napocor bleeding to death, posting P20 billion in losses a year, and another P70 billion forthcoming this year, we had no choice but to go private.

But if rules can change at the whim of some narcoleptic public officials, I am not sure if anybody will even think of, much less plan for, investing in the power sector.

It takes five years to plan, negotiate and build a plant. Today, none—zilch, zero, as in "not a single one"—is on the drawing board. Houston, we have a moron!

* * *

WHAT created chaos in the power sector, to a large extent, was the lopsided set-up. Napocor was exempted from the huge 10-percent VAT, while private producers were not.

Knowing that, under such a set-up, the government could not privatize the business even in the next life, the crafters of Epira removed such a bias in favor Napocor.

Anyway, the producers do not pay for the VAT. The users of electricity do. Oops, that means, who else, you and me!

If any heavy-eyed drowsy congressman succeeds in reimposing the VAT on private generation, I am sure that you can already guess who will suffer.

The VAT adds to the electricity rate about 50 centavos per kilowatt. That, in my monthly electric bill, means P500 more. Houston, we have a dead rat!

* * *

PRECISELY, with the Epira doing away with the VAT, we saved a little in our electric bills. Whoever said the removal benefitted the power producers, was probably sleeping.

Still, as chair of the House ways and means committee, Rep. Teves takes his job to raise money for this cute administration of Gloriaetta seriously. At our expense!

Never mind that his proposal, if the House is misinformed enough to adopt it, will certainly ruin any small chance we still have to get new investments in the power sector.

It will only serve to perpetuate the mafia at the Napocor. It will make happy all those syndicates which brought to us this chaos, in the first place.

And to think, the good congressman hides behind a legality, as he asserts the correctness of his idea, despite the volumes upon volumes of studies showing it is foolish.

* * *

THIS usually quiet gentleman from Negros (I heard he does not snore) argues that the Epira is unconstitutional. The VAT removal was only inserted in the bicameral session.

It is unconstitutional, he claims, because under the Constitution, only the House has the power to come up with tax measures. Let's say that he gets it right this once.

Now the question is, is it a tax measure to correct an unfair set-up, courtesy of the VAT, between private producers and a government monopoly?

I grew up believing that a "tax measure" is meant to raise money for the government. The Epira is not a tax measure. It is reform program. Long overdue, too!

Moreover, the House energy committee handled the Epira, while Teves chairs another committee called the ways and means.

Why he did not course his bright idea through the original Epira committee, remains a deep mystery up to now.

Good heavens, people in business will like to think that, nowadays, with the election year 2004 around the corner, the House committees are thrashing each other, too.

# Shopwise gets ₱650-M fund infusion from AIG-managed funds

INVESTMENT funds managed by AIG Global Investment Corp. (Asia) Ltd. invested last week P650 million in Rustan SuperCenter Inc. (Shopwise), the pioneer in hypermarket operations in the Philippines.

The investment was made in the form of a convertible note issue, which carries provisions for a possible additional future investment of P400 million.

The newly raised funds will be used to expand the Shopwise hypermarket chain, which plans to open three more branches next year. Shopwise has three branches—Festival Mall in Alabang, Pasong Tamo in Makati and Libis, Quezon City.

Investment and Capital Corporation of the Philippines (ICCP) served as financial adviser to Shopwise and arranger of the investment transaction. ICCP's venture capital arm, ICCP Ventures Inc., has been a shareholder and partner in Shopwise since its inception.

AIGGIC (Asia) is a member company of the American International Group Inc. (AIG), a worldwide leader in asset management with capabilities in equities, fixed income, private equity, hedge funds and real estate investment management.

AIG has 37 offices worldwide and manage more than $343 billion in assets, including $56 billion for non-affiliated clients as of June 30.

In the Philippines, AIG is represented by wholly owned subsidiary Philamlife, Philam Insurance, and their affiliates.

Shopwise, a member of the Rustan Group of Companies, was established in 1998 to expand the Rustan Group's presence in the mass retailing sector through the hypermarket format. A hypermarket is a one-stop shopping place for fresh goods, groceries, and general merchandise in a free-flowing shopping cart environment.

Shopwise general manager Bienvenido Tantoco III said the investment "represents a vote of confidence, not only for Shopwise and its vision, but for the Philippine business community as well."

# Meralco seeks rollover of ₱1.2B in debts

By Ronnel W. Domingo

DISTRIBUTION giant Manila Electric Co. said yesterday it was seeking a rollover of P1.2 billion in payments for long-term debt maturing in October.

Meralco chief financial officer Daniel Tagaza said in an interview that a rollover was one of several options that the utility was exploring with regard to meeting its financial obligations.

Tagaza said the other options included a restructuring of the maturing payments and raising some $200 million through a mortgage trust indenture (MTI), which would serve as collateral.

"But we would still have to see how Meralco's cash flow would fare in October aside from convincing our creditors on what move should be made," the official said.

Tagaza said Meralco would have no problems in paying some P1.3 billion in maturing payments in September with internal funds.

"We could also do this with our obligations in October except that we have to see that we have covered our capital expenditures and the refund to our customers for that month, these things come first (as far as our cash flow is concerned)."

He said whatever move Meralco would ultimately take would depend on talks with creditors and was subject to the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval.

Meralco has earmarked about P6 billion in capital projects this year. It has also just disbursed P1.7 billion in refund for active customer accounts with a consumption of up to 100 kilowatt-hours.

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2003)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES | | | | | |
| BANKS | | | | | |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 8,000 |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 17.5 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 188,000 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 42.5 | 43.5 | 42.5 | 43.5 | 967,500 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 34.5 | 34.5 | 33.5 | 34 | 338,500 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 29.5 | 30 | 29.5 | 30 | 636,700 |
| Philippine National Bank | 25.5 | 26 | 25.5 | 25.5 | 81,400 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 5,000 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 19 | 19.25 | 19 | 19.25 | 130,400 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 6,700 |
| FINANCIAL SERVICES | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 1.22 | 1.24 | 1.22 | 1.22 | 171,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1680 | 1680 | 1680 | 1680 | 1,220 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 617,000 |
| Sun Life Financial Inc. | 1200 | 1210 | 1200 | 1205 | 580 |
| COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL | | | | | |
| COMMUNICATION | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 24.75 | 25 | 24.75 | 24.75 | 7,900 |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc | 0.7 | 0.71 | 0.68 | .69 | 3,370,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 700 | 700 | 695 | 695 | 24,700 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.048 | 0.049 | 0.048 | .048 | 3,600,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.048 | 0.048 | 0.048 | 0.048 | 11,100,000 |
| Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp. | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 30,000 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 0.62 | 0.64 | 0.62 | .62 | 8,870,000 |
| Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co. | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 40,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 655 | 665 | 655 | 665 | 142,730 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 120,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.012 | 0.013 | 0.012 | .013 | 33,100,000 |
| POWER & ENERGY | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 15 | 15.25 | 14.75 | 15 | 936,900 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 23 | 23.25 | 22.75 | 23.25 | 1,795,800 |
| Petron Corp. | 2.02 | 2.06 | 2.02 | 2.04 | 6,667,000 |
| Salcon Power Corp. | 1.74 | 1.74 | 1.74 | 1.74 | 13,000 |
| TRANSPORTATION SERVICES | | | | | |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 2.8 | 2.85 | 2.8 | 2.85 | 8,240,000 |
| William, Gothong & Aboitiz | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 1,000 |
| CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS | | | | | |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.37 | .37 | 300,000 |
| Republic Glass Hldg. Corp. | 1.64 | 1.64 | 1.64 | 1.64 | 100,000 |
| FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.05 | 3.1 | 250,000 |
| Ginebra San Miguel Inc. | 31 | 31.5 | 31 | 31.5 | 266,800 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 18 | 18.25 | 18 | 18.25 | 514,800 |
| RFM Corp. | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | .7 | 70,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 54 | 54.5 | 53.5 | 54.5 | 86,100 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 63 | 63 | 62.5 | 63 | 48,400 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 100,000 |
| HOLDING FIRMS | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg A | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | .38 | 10,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 4.75 | 4.95 | 4.7 | 4.9 | 21,900,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 2.9 | 3 | 2.9 | 3 | 1,042,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 0.81 | 0.82 | 0.81 | .82 | 220,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 102,000,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 1.72 | 1.78 | 1.72 | 1.78 | 22,000 |
| Baguio Gold Holdings Corp. | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | .24 | 70,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.6 | 0.61 | 0.6 | .61 | 21,760,000 |
| A Brown Company Inc | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 10,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 0.26 | 0.28 | 0.26 | .27 | 2,750,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 18.75 | 19 | 18.5 | 18.75 | 987,100 |
| Forum Pacific Inc. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | .25 | 100,000 |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.11 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 10,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 1.4 | 1.48 | 1.38 | 1.48 | 1,421,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 2 | 2 | 1.96 | 1.96 | 40,000 |
| Macroasia Corp. | 0.8 | 0.85 | 0.8 | .85 | 40,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 0.91 | 0.97 | 0.91 | .97 | 14,260,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.28 | 0.29 | 0.28 | .29 | 3,880,000 |
| Music Corp. | 0.41 | 0.41 | 0.4 | .41 | 5,000,000 |
| Prime Orion Phils. Inc | 0.245 | 0.26 | 0.245 | .25 | 2,200,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 1.02 | 1.02 | 1.02 | 1.02 | 60,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.11 | 0.11 | 0.1 | 1 | 1,340,000 |
| Wellex Industries Inc. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 3 | 20,000 |
| MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING | | | | | |
| Corro-Coat Inc. | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 30,000 |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 50,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 0.085 | 0.085 | 0.085 | .085 | 1,500,000 |
| SPI Technologies Inc. | 13.25 | 13.5 | 13.25 | 13.5 | 11,000 |
| Steniel Manufacturing | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 100,000 |
| HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.55 | 0.56 | 0.55 | .56 | 3,090,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 350,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 0.49 | 0.49 | 0.49 | .49 | 210,000 |
| Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 320,000 |
| BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr) | 25 | 25.5 | 25 | 25 | 574,900 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series R | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 700 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series S | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 300 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series T | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 500 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series V | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,500 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series W | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 700 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 900 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 700 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 700 |
| Philweb Corp. - Warrants | 0.0012 | 0.0012 | 0.0012 | .0012 | 60,000,000 |
| PROPERTY | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 6.7 | 6.9 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 4,835,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | .2 | 30,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 1,510,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc | 0.23 | 0.25 | 0.23 | .245 | 5,300,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 7,983,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.185 | 0.19 | 0.185 | .19 | 420,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 26,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 26,064,000 |
| MINING | | | | | |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B | 0.2 | 0.205 | 0.2 | .205 | 450,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 34,000,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.0042 | 0.0044 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 39,000,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0032 | 0.0034 | 0.0032 | .0034 | 10,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | .29 | 140,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 0.3 | 0.31 | 0.27 | .27 | 1,110,000 |
| OIL | | | | | |
| Interport Res. B | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | .0034 | 40,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 80,000,000 |

## DISCLOSURES

EASYCALL Communications Philippines Inc. disclosed that its stockholders approved plans to spin off all its assets related to the operations of its call center and Internet businesses into a wholly owned subsidiary.

* * *

ELECTED officers of Far Eastern University were Lourdes Montinola, chair; Aurelio Montinola III, vice chair; Lydia Echauz, president; Angelina Jose, corporate secretary; Fe Canilao, chief financial officer; Lydia Palaypay, vice president for academic affairs; Ceferino Sta. Maria, VP for operations; Herminia Maliwat, treasurer; Glenn Nagal, comptroller; Cecilia Anido, assistant vice president for academic affairs, Renato Silva, AVP for operations and Severino Garcia, compliance officer.

* * *

FILIPINO Fund Inc. announced the resignation of Emilio de Quiros and Teodoro Limcaoco as directors. Others who resigned were Carlos Aquino, corporate secretary; Sabino Padilla IV, assistant corporate secretary and Ronnie Alcantara, treasurer. Elected directors were Frank Gaisano and Margaret Ang who was also appointed treasurer. Vincent Tomaneng was appointed corporate secretary.

* * *

DIRECTORS of Interport Resources Corp. who resigned were Felipe Sese, Mario Reyes, Alexander Asuncion and Ruben del Rosario. Elected to replace them were Esperanza Molina-Dela Cruz, Gil Miguel Puyat, John Dexter Asuncion and Roberto de Ocampo.

* * *

INCLUDED in the agenda of Jollibee Foods Corp.'s special stockholders' meeting on Oct. 17 will be the planned merger of FSC Foods Corp. and Superior FSC Foods Corp. into JFC. But such plan will be presented to the board of directors for official approval in a meeting on Sept. 29. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

## CURRENCIES

| September 17, 2003<br>Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.895015 | 1.000000 | 55.016000 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.007711 | 0.008616 | 0.474000 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.420299 | 1.586900 | 87.304900 |
| Hongkong | Dollar | 0.114759 | 0.128220 | 7.054200 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.643988 | 0.719528 | 39.585600 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.654107 | 0.730834 | 40.207600 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.511437 | 0.571429 | 31.437700 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.592332 | 0.661813 | 36.410300 |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 2.386706 | 2.666667 | 146.709400 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.238690 | 0.266688 | 14.672100 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.509980 | 0.569801 | 31.348200 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000106 | 0.000118 | 0.006500 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.022104 | 0.024697 | 1.358700 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.243707 | 0.272294 | 14.980500 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.117300 | 61.469400 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.309694 | 0.346021 | 19.036700 |
| Brazil | REAL | 0.308839 | 0.345066 | 18.984200 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134730 | 0.150534 | 8.281800 |
| India | Rupee | 0.019542 | 0.021834 | 1.201200 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.235562 | 0.263193 | 14.479800 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.082323 | 0.091979 | 5.060300 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.522698 | 0.584010 | 32.129900 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.120797 | 0.134966 | 7.425300 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.015565 | 0.017391 | 0.956800 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.119655 | 0.133690 | 7.355100 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000765 | 0.000855 | 0.047000 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.109926 | 0.122820 | 6.757100 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.021310 | 0.023810 | 1.309900 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.026324 | 0.029412 | 1.618100 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000561 | 0.000627 | 0.034500 |

LEYTE III ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (LEYECO III)
Tunga, Leyte

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The LEYTE III ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. invites interested parties to supply
ONE ASSEMBLY 5 MVA ELECTRIC POWER SUBSTATION

A. CIVIL WORKS
SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATERIALS
SCOPE OF WORK:
1. Site Development (Clearing, excavation, backfilling/compacting-400 sqm
2. Perimeter Fence
3. Guard House
4. Steel Structure (Galvanize) & Concrete Foundation
4 a 69 KV "H" Steel Frame (Galvanize) & Foundation (Footings)
4 b 13.2 KV Steel Structure (Galvanize) & Foundation (Footings)
4 c 69 KV Steel Frame for SF6 & Foundation (Footings)
4 d Transformer pad
4 e 13.2 VCB Steel frame & footings
4 f Concrete Pedestal for 13.2 KV terminaling/distribution Feeder
5 Control and Battery Room or Container Van
6 Others

B. MAJOR COMPONENTS OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATION
3 units Surge/Lightning Arresters, outdoor station class, 60 KV, 10 KA
3 units 69 KV Current Transformer, outdoor, dual core, protection and metering accuracy 150 – 100/50 5A
3 units 69 KV Potential Transformer, 350/600 1
1 set 69 KV, 1250A double side Break Disconnect Switch, 3 pole with motor operated mechanism
1 set SF6 Circuit Breaker, 69 KV, 1250A, 31.5 KA, outdoor, motor operated with Gas Filling equipment, leakage detector and Maintenance tools (live tank)
1 set Digital Protective relay, 3 phase protection, with event, fault and disturbance Recording and Auxiliaries SCADA Ready
1 set 5MVA Power transformer, 69/13 800 KV with no load tap changer and complete accessories
Pressure relief device with alarm contact
Relays with alarm contact
Oil level gauge with alarm contact
Oil temperature relay with alarm contact
2 sets Disconnect switch SMD 20-200E (6 Units for FlxF2)
3 units Capacitor 25 K VAR
2 sets 15 KV, 630A, 12.5 KA, 110KV Hil, AC operated with complete instrumentation, Digital Protective relays and monitoring accessories
15 KV XLPE Power Cables and others
1 set substation lighting and power
10 K VA, 13.2/7620/240/120V
fuse cut out
surge arrester
Substation Grounding System #4/0 Bare copper Wire and Accessories
Others
Note Other matters materials/ equipment needed which has not been taken will be discuss during Pre bidding
This is a lease to own scheme project for 5 year (60 months)

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES
1. Pre bidding conference — Sept. 19, 2003 at 10:00 am
2. Date of Submission
a) Pre qualification requirements — Sept. 22, 2003 until 4:00 pm
b) Technical & financial report — Sept. 25, 2003 at 9:00 am
Opening of Bids — Sept. 25, 2003 at 11:00 am

LEYECO III reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids if the committee find irregularities and assume no obligation to any expenses incurred by prospective bidders and suppliers

Noted
(Sgd.) ENGR. EDMUNDO C. SUMAYOD
General Manager

(Sgd.) ENGR. ESTEBAN MANLAPAS
Chairman, Pre-Bids and Award Committee

(PDI–Sept. 17, 18 & 19, 2003)

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
PORT MANAGEMENT OFFICE-ILOILO

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY / APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The Philippine Ports Authority through the Port Management Office, Iloilo invites interested bidders to submit Application to Pre-qualify/apply for eligibility, and subsequently to bid, if pre-qualified for the:

A.1. Name of Project: ASPHALT OVERLAY OF DETERIORATED APRON ALONG ILOILO RIVER WHARF, ILOILO CITY

B.1. Scope of Work
1.0 Mobilization/Demobilization
2.0 Clearing/Leveling/Surface Preparation/Compaction
3.0 Aggregate Base Course Laying
4.0 Bituminous Prime Coat
5.0 Bituminous Concrete Resurfacing

C.1. Minimum Equipment Requirements
1 Unit road grader owned/leased
1 Unit vibro roller owned/leased
1 Unit water truck owned/leased
1 Unit plate compactor owned/leased
1 Unit stake truck owned/leased
1 Unit surveying instruments owned/leased
1 Unit road roller owned/leased
1 Unit asphalt kettle w/distributor owned/leased
1 Unit motorized sweeper owned/leased
1 Unit service vehicle owned/leased
1 Unit asphalt paver owned/leased
1 Unit pneumatic roller owned/leased
1 Unit tandem steel wheeled roller owned/leased
1 Unit dump truck owned/leased

D.1. Budget for the Contract — P 6,869,965.60
Source of Funding — Repair and Maintenance

E.1. Required PCAB Registration & Classification — Medium A – Roads and Pavements

Pre-C forms shall be made available at the BAC Secretariat, Engineering Services Division, PPA-PMO-Iloilo, Admin. Bldg., Bo. Obrero, Iloilo City, starting September 8-22, 2003 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P200.00

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished pre-qualification statement shall not be later than September 24, 2003, 5:00 P.M. in duplicate copies

Bid documents shall be issued only to pre-qualified contractors starting September 15, 2003 payment of non-refundable cost of P350.00

Schedule for the Pre-Bid Conference and Opening of Bids shall be disseminated after the evaluation of Application for Eligibility thru the Notice of Eligibility of the Contractors

All particulars relative to pre-qualification, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of Contract shall be governed by the Provisions of Executive Order No. 40 and its implementing Rules and Regulations

The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in the proposals received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the Philippine Ports Authority

(Sgd.) FERNANDO B. CLAVERIA
Port Manager

(PDI–Sept. 12 & 18, 2003)

# Napocor to sell $250M worth of bonds this week

NATIONAL Power Corp. (Napocor) will sell $250 million of 15-year bonds this week, its second foray in the global debt market this year, banking and market sources said on Wednesday.

Cash-strapped Napocor was forced to dump a $500-million, 10-year bond deal in June on weak investor demand.

The Philippine government came to the rescue of Napocor in July, raising $750 million at a spread of 461 basis points (bps) over US Treasuries for the utility company.

The latest Napocor bond issue, guaranteed by the Philippines and insured by US Overseas Private Investment Corp., is expected to be priced on Thursday, sources said.

Informal price guidance for the new bond is set at 120 basis points over Treasuries, a source said. Bear Sterns is the lead manager for the transaction.

Global ratings agency Standard & Poor's has assigned a preliminary AAA rating to the proposed issue. Analysts said the Napocor deal would pave the way for the Philippine government to return to the market with its funding needs for 2003, and possibly for next year.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said that even with the guarantee fee to be paid to Opic, the borrowing would still end up cheaper because of the favorable credit rating.

"Once (Napocor) is out of the way. You would expect the Philippines to do it," said Dilip Shahani, head of fixed income research for Asia-Pacific at HSBC.

Camacho said last week Manila might return to the overseas bond market in September or October to fill funding needs of $200-$250 million for the rest of 2003.

Napocor's bond issue will be underwritten by American firm Bear Stearns.

In the meantime, the government is preparing to issue as much as $1 billion worth of bonds in the foreign markets by the end of the year to pre-finance half of its $1.8 billion in external financing requirement next year.

The country's pending registration for $1.5 billion worth of securities with the US Securities and Exchange Commission is proceeding smoothly, according to a finance official. *Clarissa S. Batino, with a report from Reuters*

# RP to keep high duties on sensitive farm goods

**By Christine A. Gaylican**

THE PHILIPPINES is bent on keeping its quantitative restrictions (QRs) on sensitive agriculture products, particularly rice, for as long as safety mechanisms are not in place to protect the local farm sector from import surge, Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. said yesterday.

With the failure of the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization in Cancun, Mexico, to create new parameters in stopping reduction of tariffs on sensitive farm products, Lorenzo said the country would just insist on keeping the QRs until the special products (SP) and special safeguard mechanisms (SSM) were adopted.

Lorenzo, in a National Press Club forum, said this would be the country's position in the next round of negotiations among the 143 member-countries of the World Trade Organization in Geneva this December.

Sensitive farm products including rice, corn and sugar are currently slapped tariffs ranging from 50 percent to 100 percent. However, these rates will have to be brought down to a range of 0-5 percent.

Agricultural products classified as special products or SPs would be exempted from deeper tariff cuts next year.

Lorenzo said it was necessary for developing countries to reduce their tariff rates on sensitive farm products at their own pace because of their importance to food and livelihood security and rural development.

Lorenzo said the Philippines would also push for the implementation of SSMs that would allow developing countries to charge higher duties on cheap imports that threatened local produce.

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# 4 US firms seen vying for exploration contracts

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

FOUR American petroleum firms have signified interest in participating in the first bidding of exploration contracts, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said yesterday.

Perez, who was keynote speaker at the opening of the PowerTech Philippine 2003 Business Forum held at the World Trade Center in Manila, said the companies were Marathon Oil, Amerada Hess, Hunt Oil and Occidental Petroleum.

"The move of these first few companies to bid for contracts means a resurgence of investor interest in the country as destination of investment in petroleum exploration," he said.

Perez said future drilling activities and possible commercial finds would provide additional oil and natural gas supply and replenishment for reserves that would be running out.

Government records show that the country's biggest reserves are the 2.7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and the 35 million barrels of crude from the Malampaya field.

The Department of Energy launched last August the first petroleum contracting bidding round, with 46 exploration blocks up for grabs.

Potential bidders were given six months to check the prospects until the bidding proper in March 2004.

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we are on our 39th anniversary
and going.......

*"Onward to Design Excellence"*

## THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS

## Member - APSDA and IFI

### Messages

On behalf of the people of the Second District of Ilocos Norte, I extend my warmest congratulations to all the officers and members of the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers on the occasion of your 39th year anniversary.

Events like this offer us promising opportunities to examine our accomplishments even as we introduce a new perspective for further development. In this time of great challenges, it is essential to hold on to the precious values of truth, integrity and competence

With your representatives in Congress and your distinguished officials, let us work together to fulfill our aspiration of a developed country that has been weak and dying to a newed community.

Again, I congratulate the officers and members of the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers. I am certain that with your unwavering and selfless support, we shall achieve our vision of a just and progressive society.

Godspeed and more power.

Imee R. Marcos
Hon. IMEE R. MARCOS
Representative
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

39 years have gone by since the formation of the PIID. Its Mission and Vision then had remained the same till this day. I am honored to lead this organization composed of a hard working board of directors, a vibrant membership composed of three generations, and a hall of fame featuring pioneers in the profession. PIID's membership in the Asia Pacific Space Designers Association (APSDA) and the International Federation of Interior Architects and Designers (IFI) is a clear indication of global acceptance. Likewise, the recent hosting of the APSDA Convention is a manisfestation of PIID's world renowned recognition. The liaison between the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the allied profession truly brings PIID closer to the optimum fulfillment of its objectives. With the cooperation and support evident in this organization, PIID will be assured of its success as it moves "Onward to Design Excellence"!
Congratulations and Kudos!

Gerry L. Contreras
GERRY L. CONTRERAS
President

I extend my heartfelt Congratulations to the officers and members of the Philippine Institute of Interior Design as you celebrate your 39th Anniversary, aptly themed: "Onward to Design Excellence".

The PIID has truly come a long way in uplifting and empowering the Interior Design Profession. Together with the Professional Regulation Commission, their inputs helped pave the way for the creation of Republic Act 8534, the Interior Design Bill.

I encourage you to continue to be a source of excellence for the Interior Design Profession. May God grant you strength, and shower you with His Good Graces in all the years to come

JOSE MA. G. RUBILLA
Chairman
PRC Board of Interior Design

seated (L-R) Arlen P. de Guzman, Mike C. Pizarro, Gerry L. Contreras and Jiro M. Estaniel.
standing (L-R) Celynn J. Imperial, Evangeline K. Kuizon, Leticia S. Limpo, Minette R. Fajardo, Belen S. Morey, Necita R. Cheng and Lot D. Hilvano

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### Schedule of Activities

| | |
|---|---|
| September 18, 2003<br>(Thursday) | **1st President's Golf Cup**<br>Manila Southwoods, Carmona Cavite<br>6:30 AM tee-off time |
| September 19-21, 2003<br>(Friday to Sunday) | **Cultural Trip**<br>Tayabas, Quezon<br>Day 1 - 1:00 PM Departure (Filomena Bldg.)<br>Day 2 - Tour Proper:<br>Lumang Bahay<br>Malagonlong Bridge<br>Pansit Habhab Factory<br>Lambanog Distillery<br>Treasure Hunt contest<br>Day 3 - 1:00 PM Departure (Tayabas, Quezon) |
| September 27, 2003<br>(Saturday) | **Exhibits and Interactive Seminar**<br>Gercon Plaza, 7901 Makati Ave. Mkt City.<br>7:30 AM Ribbon Cutting and registration<br>9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Seminar Proper (AM Session)<br>1:00 PM - 3:30 PM Seminar Proper (PM Session) |

**GALA NIGHT** (strictly by invitation only)
Gercon Plaza, 7901 Makati Ave.,Mkt City

| | |
|---|---|
| 5:00 PM | Registration |
| 6:00 PM | Thanksgiving Mass |
| 7:00 PM | Cocktails |
| 7:45 PM | Start of the Program |
| 8:00 PM | Welcome Remarks |
| 8:10 PM | Dinner |
| 9:00 PM | Presentation of the Cultural Trip and winners of the Treasure Hunt contest. |
| 9:15 PM | Introduction of Distinguished Guest of Honor |
| 9:20 PM | Guest of Honor |
| 9:30 PM | Presentation of Token |
| 11:00 PM | Closing Remarks |
| 11:15 PM | Fellowship, Raffle Prizes |

**Call the Secretariat for Inquiries:**

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE | BASIC | Artfilm<br>LE PACTE DU SILENCE (EXCLUSIVE)<br>[illegible] | THX GUARANTEED SEATS<br>FREDDY VS. JASON<br>12:25 2:35 4:45 [illegible] | THX HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| FREDDY VS. JASON | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS | FREDDY VS. JASON<br>1:05 3:15 5:2[illegible] 9:45 | THX GUARANTEED SEATS<br>HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE<br>[illegible] | FREDDY VS. JASON |
| 1ST TIME | THX GUARANTEED SEATS<br>HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE<br>[illegible] | MARTIN NIEVERA<br>Sept. 19 & 20 9PM<br>BEAUTY & THE BEAST (THE MUSICAL PLAY)<br>Sept. 18, 7PM | GUARANTEED SEATS<br>S.W.A.T.<br>2:00 4:15 6:30 8:45 11:00 | BASIC |
| BASIC | DADDY DAY CARE | | GUARANTEED SEATS<br>2 FAST 2 FURIOUS<br>12:10 4:30 6:50 9:10 11:3[illegible] | DADDY DAY CARE |
| | PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN | | GUARANTEED SEATS<br>BASIC<br>12:25 2:35 4:45 [illegible] | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| | FREDDY VS. JASON | | | |
| | THE MEDALLION | | | |

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|---|---|
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| 2 | PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN |
| 3 | FREDDY VS JASON |
| 4 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| 5 | MEDALLION |
| 6 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 7 | BASIC |
| 8 | FIRST TIME |
| 9 | PINAY PIE |
| 10 | DADDY DAY CARE |

## Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | RESERVE |
| 2 | RESERVE |
| 3 | RESERVE |
| 4 | RESERVE |
| 5 | RESERVE |
| 6 | RESERVE |
| Golden Pearl THX | RESERVE |

## Masagana CINEMA 2000

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 833.3274

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | FIRST TIME |
| 2 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 3 | MEDALLION |

## starmall Movies

www.clickthecity.com.ph

(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MEDALLION |
| 2 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| 3 | FIRST TIME |
| 4 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 5 | KALABIT |

## METROPOLIS star

www.clickthecity.com.ph

(Alabang) tel 850.4285

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | KALABIT |
| 2 | FIRST TIME |
| 3 | BASIC |
| 4 | MEDALLION |
| 5 | FREDDY VS JASON |
| 6 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |

## star

www.clickthecity.com.ph

(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 2 | DADDY DAY CARE |

## PREMIERE CINEMA THX

(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503

2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

## Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN |
| 2 | SPY KIDS-3D |

## FCM FAI[illegible] STER MALL

tel 930.9515

1

2

3

## Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 2 | FIRST TIME |
| 3 | RESERVE |
| 4 | RESERVE |

## GOTESCO CINEMA

### Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MEDALLION |
| 4 | RESERVE |
| 5 | FREDDY VS JASON |
| 6 | FIRST TIME |
| 7 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| 8 | BASIC |
| 9 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |

### Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | RESERVE |

### Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | KALABIT |
| 2 | FIRST TIME |
| 3 | FREDDY VS JASON |
| 4 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 5 | MEDALLION |
| 6 | BASIC |
| 7 | SWAT |
| 8 | PINAY PIE |
| 9 | ASBOOBS |

### Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | ASBOOBS |
| 2 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 3 | FIRST TIME |
| 4 | ASBOOBS |
| 5 | KALABIT |

### Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | FIRST TIME |
| 2 | ASBOOBS |
| 3 | MEDALLION |
| 4 | KALABIT |
| 5 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |

## Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | RESERVE |

## Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | RESERVE |

## Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

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|---|---|
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| Jennet | RESERVE |

## Mandaluyong

tel 533.3851 533.3856

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | FIRST TIME |
| 2 | MEDALLION |
| 3 | KALABIT |
| 4 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |

## Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 2 | MEDALLION |
| 3 | BASIC |
| 4 | FIRST TIME |
| 5 | FREDDY VS JASON |

## FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | RESERVE |
| 2 | RESERVE |

## Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 879.2029

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | NAKED WEAPON |
| 2 | KALABIT |

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| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| 2 | FIRST TIME |
| 3 | MEDALLION |
| 4 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 5 | FREDDY VS JASON |
| 6 | SWAT |
| 7 | BASIC |

## Farmers Plaza CINEMAS

tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | RESERVE |
| 2 | RESERVE |

## CINEMA 2000

### Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0926

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | FIRST TIME |
| 2 | MEDALLION |
| 3 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |

### Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | FIRST TIME |
| 2 | MEDALLION |
| 3 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| 4 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |

### Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | FIRST TIME |
| 2 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 3 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| 4 | MEDALLION |

### Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN |
| 2 | ASBOOBS |
| 3 | ITALIAN JOB |
| 4 | |

### Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LEGALLY BLONDE 2 |
| 2 | PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN |
| 3 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| 4 | SPY KIDS - 3D |

## Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 FAST 2 FOURIOUS |
| 2 | SPY KID-3D |
| 3 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |

## Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | NEW BLOOD |
| 2 | KALABIT |
| 3 | FIRST TIME |
| 4 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |

## Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MEDALLION |
| 2 | ASBOOBS |
| 3 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 4 | WWW.XXX.COM |
| 5 | FIRST TIME |

## Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | FIRST TIME |
| 2 | ASBOOBS |
| 3 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |

## Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MEDALLION |
| 2 | FIRST TIME |
| 3 | ASBOOBS |

## Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPY KID-3D |
| 2 | ASBOOBS |
| 3 | FIRST TIME |
| 4 | 2 FAST 2 FOURIOUS |

## Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | RESERVE |
| 2 | RESERVE |

## Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | KALABIT |
| 2 | PIRATE OF THE CARRIBEAN |
| 3 | RESERVE |

## Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | ASBOOBS |
| 2 | LEGALLY BLONDE |
| 3 | 2 FAST 2 FOURIOUS |
| 4 | SWAT |

## Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-5001 TO 03

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPY KID-3D |
| 2 | FIRST TIME |
| 3 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 4 | WWW.XXX.COM |

## Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | AS BOOBS |
| 2 | SPY KID-3D |
| 3 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 4 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |

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|---|---|
| 1 | S.W.A.T. |
| 2 | BASIC |
| 3 | FREDDY VS. JASON |
| 4 | FIRST TIME |
| 5 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 6 | THE MEDALLION |
| 7 | KALABIT |
| 8 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |

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| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 2 | S.W.A.T. |
| 3 | FREDDY VS. JASON |
| 4 | FIRST TIME |
| 5 | BASIC |
| 6 | DADDY DAY CARE |
| 7 | THE MEDALLION |
| 8 | PINAYPIE |
| 9 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| 10 | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN |

## SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | KALABIT |
| 2 | DADDY DAY CARE |
| 3 | PINAY PIE |
| 4 | FREDDY VS. JASON |
| 5 | S.W.A.T. |
| 6 | THE MEDALLION |
| 7 | BASIC |
| 8 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 9 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| 10 | ASBOOBS |
| 11 | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN |
| 12 | FIRST TIME |

## SM CITY MANILA

5239240

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | BASIC |
| 2 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 3 | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN |
| 4 | FREDDY VS. JASON |
| 5 | S.W.A.T. |
| 6 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| 7 | KALABIT |
| 8 | LEGALLY BLONDE 2 |
| 9 | FIRST TIME |
| 10 | PINAYPIE |
| 11 | DADDY DAY CARE |
| 12 | THE MEDALLION |

## SM MEGAMALL

6331901 • 6329401

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| 2 | BASIC |
| 3 | FREDDY VS. JASON |
| 4 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 5 | DADDY DAY CARE |
| 6 | CLOSED |
| 7 | BRAZEN WOMEN |
| 8 | LEGALLY BLONDE 2 |
| 9 | FIRST TIME |
| 10 | THE MEDALLION |
| 11 | S.W.A.T. |
| 12 | KALABIT |

## SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S.W.A.T. |
| 2 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| 3 | FIRST TIME |
| 4 | THE MEDALLION |
| 5 | LEGALLY BLONDE 2 |
| 6 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 7 | BASIC |
| 8 | FREDDY VS. JASON |

## SM SOUTHMALL

8066888

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| 2 | S.W.A.T. |
| 3 | FREDDY VS. JASON |
| 4 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 5 | DADDY DAY CARE |
| 6 | KALABIT |
| 7 | THE MEDALLION |
| 8 | BASIC |
| 9 | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN |
| 10 | FIRST TIME |

## SM CITY CEBU

2313876

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPY KIDS 3-D |
| 2 | BASIC |
| 3 | IN-LAWS |
| 4 | S.W.A.T. |
| 5 | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN |
| 6 | WWW.XXX.COM |
| 7 | KALABIT |
| 8 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |

## SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | WWW.XXX.COM |
| 2 | RESERVED |
| 3 | S.W.A.T. |
| 4 | INTERSTATE 60 |
| 5 | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN |
| 6 | S.W.A.T. |
| 7 | RESERVED |
| 8 | PINAYPIE |

## SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPY KIDS 3-D |
| 2 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 3 | S.W.A.T. |
| 4 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| 5 | BASIC |
| 6 | FIRST TIME |

## SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | FIRST TIME |
| 2 | BASIC |
| 3 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 4 | FREDDY VS. JASON |

## SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | FREDDY VS. JASON |
| 2 | THE MEDALLION |
| 3 | FIRST TIME |
| 4 | BASIC |

## SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S.W.A.T. |
| 2 | WWW.XXX.COM |
| 3 | PINAYPIE |
| 4 | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN |
| 5 | BASIC |
| 6 | S.W.A.T. |

## SM BICUTAN

776-3055

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 2 | FIRST TIME |
| 3 | BASIC |
| 4 | FREDDY VS. JASON |

## SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2884

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN |
| 2 | ASBOOBS |
| 3 | LEGALLY BLONDE 2 |
| 4 | S.W.A.T. |

## CINE EUROPA

CINE EUROPA
6

The Praying Mantis (Austria)
7:00 p.m.

Captains of April (Portugal)
9:30 p.m.

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| | |
|---|---|
| 1 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE<br>12:10, 2:30, 4:50<br>7:10, 9:30 THX | 4 FREDDY VS. JASON<br>10:20, 12:40, 3:00<br>5:20, 7:40, 10:00 |
| 2 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE<br>10:20, 12:40, 3:00,<br>5:20, 7:40, 10:00 | 5 BASIC<br>10:35, 12:50, 3:05,<br>5:20, 7:35, 9:55 |
| 3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS<br>10:35, 12:50, 3:05,<br>5:20, 7:35, 9:55 | 6 THE MEDALLION<br>11:00, 1:10, 3:20,<br>5:30, 7:40, 9:50 |
| 7 S.W.A.T.<br>12:40, 3:00,<br>5:20, 7:40, 10:00 | 9 DADDY DAY CARE<br>11:00, 12:50, 2:40<br>4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00 |
| 8 1ST TIME<br>10:20, 12:40, 3:00,<br>5:20, 7:40, 10:00 | 10 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN<br>11:00, 1:45, 4:30<br>7:15, 10:00 |

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## Ermita

526-7185
536-7809 to 12

1 FREDDY VS. JASON - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40

2 1ST TIME - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30

3 THE MEDALLION - 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50

4 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

5 S.W.A.T. - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

6 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE - 10:10, 12:50, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

7 BASIC - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40

## Metro East

Marcos hway

682-8193-99
682-8280

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | FREDDY VS. JASON |
| 2 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| 3 | S.W.A.T. |
| 4 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 5 | BASIC |
| 6 | THE MEDALLION |
| 7 | DADDY DAY CARE |
| 8 | 1ST TIME |

## Novaliches

935-3229 / 31

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE MEDALLION |
| 2 | DADDY DAY CARE |
| 3 | FREDDY VS. JASON |
| 4 | S.W.A.T. |
| 5 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| 6 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 7 | BASIC |
| 8 | 1ST TIME |

## Star Mills

(045)875-1927 (045)961-5270

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPY KIDS 3D |
| 2 | 1ST TIME |
| 3 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 4 | INTERSTATE 60 |
| 5 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| 6 | BASIC |

## Imus

(046)471-8188 875-5856

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | BASIC |
| 2 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| 3 | 1ST TIME |
| 4 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 5 | FREDDY VS. JASON |
| 6 | THE MEDALLION |

## Bacolod

(034)441-0458 59

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S.W.A.T. |
| 2 | PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN |
| 3 | INTERSTATE 60 |
| 4 | MR. BONES |
| 5 | KEKA |
| 6 | SABIK |

## Iloilo

(033)338-8070 to 78

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | S.W.A.T. |
| 2 | INTERSTATE 60 |
| 3 | WWW.XXX.COM |
| 4 | PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN |
| 5 | TALK TO HER |
| 6 | S.W.A.T. |

## Sta. Rosa

(049)837-0907

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS |
| 2 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |
| 3 | ASBOOBS |
| 4 | FIRST TIME |
| 5 | THE MEDALLION |

## Malabon

288-0985-2575

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | BASIC |
| 2 | FREDDY VS. JASON |
| 3 | 1ST TIME |
| 4 | HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE |

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### CONDO/TWNHSE

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P3.295M 8903461 loc 34

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**QUEZON CITY**

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**QUEZON CITY**

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### CARS FOR RENT

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Mktg Staf 09192535623 CAROL

MKTG STF 09205921022 SKY

MKTG/OFC STF 0919-6871290

*OFC MKTG STAF 20-45YO COL GRAD/LVL W/W/O EXP W/SALARY 9352962 ELAINE*

SALES MKTG 4219366 / 9776

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Bejamin M. De Guzman Sr. has been the subject of a deed of extra-judicial partition and settlement among the heirs as Doc. No. 40; Page. No. 8; Book No. IV; Series of 2003 of Notary Public Lourdes J. Espinosa. (PDI-Sept.18,25 & Oct. 2,2003)

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Local Civil Registry Office
Province: Benguet
Municipality: Sablan

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION**

In compliance with Section of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that CARLOS SAN BUENAVENTURA QUISTO has filed with this OFFICE a petition for change of first name from "MACARIO" to "CARLOS" in his birth certificate who was born on June 29, 1961 at Buenavista, Quezon and whose parents are ANGEL D. QUISTO and NANITA O. SAN BUENAVENTURA.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later 27 September 2003.

(Sgd.) ROSITA A. REBOLDELA
Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI–Sept 18, 2003)

---

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**(UNUSED)PUMP & MOTORS** - ELIN, CHINA induction motors; MALHATTY, KIRLOSKAR, PACO centrifugal pumps, MARLOW self priming pumps; AUTOTROL pressure valves; Dry Chlorinators; Automatic proportional feeders etc.

**MISCELLANEOUS** - SHIMADZU FTIR 8201 PC infrared spectrophotometer, ODONTORAMA PC dental x-ray, power tools, stainless screw conveyors, RANGER walk thru metal detectors, welding machines, refrigerators, dishwashers, VHS players, lighting fixtures etc.

**AT: HENRY BUTCHER AUCTION CENTER
C/O HILON COMPOUND - BO. MAYAPA, CANLUBANG, LAGUNA
AUCTION DATE: TUESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2003 10:30AM SHARP
VIEWING DATE: MONDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2003
9:00AM - 5:00PM AND MORNING OF SALE DAY
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: PHP20,000 (UPON REGISTRATION)**

HENRY BUTCHER
Goindustry INDUSTRIAL ASSET DISPOSAL & VALUATION

HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES INC.
Rm. 102 Jubilant Bldg., 670 Edsa, Pasay City, Philippines
Tel No.: +(63 2) 852 2910 * 11 Fax No.: +(63 2) 831 9507
E mail: manila@henrybutcher.com
Website: www.henrybutcher.com www.goindustry.com

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Kagawaran ng Ugnayang Panlabas
Department of Foreign Affairs

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila
Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee

**INVITATION TO BID**

The Department of Foreign Affairs-Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (DFA-PBAC) is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and bid for the following service contracts:

**A. JANITORIAL SERVICE CONTRACT**
**B. TRANSPORT LEASE SERVICE CONTRACT**

All interested bidders may avail of bid documents from **19 September-3 October 2003**, upon submission of a Letter of Intent addressed to the undersigned and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00) at the DFA-PBAC Secretariat, Office of the Undersecretary for Administration, 12th Floor, DFA Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Tel. # 834-4066. Prequalification documents must be submitted to the DFA-PBAC Secretariat on or before the dates specified below for each service. Applications for eligibility shall be evaluated using the "FASS/FAIL" criteira and only the companies prequalified by the DFA-PBAC shall be allowed to submit bids. Prebid conferences may be held upon determination by the DFA-PBAC for purposes of clarifying certain issues.

| ACTIVITY | JANITORIAL SERVICE | TRANSPORT SERVICE |
|---|---|---|
| Submission of Prequal Docs | 17 Oct. 2003, 1700H (deadline) | 18 Oct. 2003, 1700H (deadline) |
| Submission of Sealed Bids | 07 Nov 2003, 1400H (deadline) | 10 Nov 2003, 1400H (deadline) |
| Opening of Sealed Bids | 07 Nov 2003 1500H | 10 Nov 2003 1500H |

DFA-PBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, and to waive any deficiencies and required formalities embodied therein. DFA-PBAC assumes no obligations whatsoever to offset the expenses and/or losses the bidder may have incurred in the preparation of the bids. DFA-PBAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, and/or not to award the contract, and makes no assurances that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) FRANKLIN M. EBDALIN
Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs
Chairman, DFA-PBAC

(PDI – September 18 & 25, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
Procurement Service
Inter-Agency Bids and Awards Committee

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY COPY PAPER** for the **PS Stocks.**

The approved budget for this contract is **P11,220,000.00.**

All interested parties are invited to attend the **Pre-Bid Conference** that will be held on **October 2, 2003, Thursday, 9:30 A.M., at the PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal St. Paco, Manila.**

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting **September 17, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500.00).**

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the IABAC Secretariat at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and opening of bids shall be on **October 16, 2003, Thursday at 1:30 P.M.**

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division** at telephone nos. **563-93-67 or 563-94-02.**

**PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.**

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI – September 18 & 25, 2003)

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ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar St., Zamboanga City
Telephone No. 991-1556, 991-1557

**INVITATION TO BID**

The **ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT (ZCWD)** is inviting interested and licensed suppliers of CI Pipes & Fittings, GI Pipes & Fittings for water supply to submit bids for the following:

| PR/JO No. | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
| 6683 | CI Couplings, Mechanical Caps, Saddle Clamps, Tees, PVC Pipes & Bends, Gate Valves, CLAC Steel Pipes, PE Tubing, Telescopic Valve, Valve Hose Connector. For the use in the Proposed Putik-Boalan Distribution Line Project (Phase II A). To be carried in stock. |
| 6684 | GI Pipes & Elbows, Bushing, Tees, Nipples & Brass Ball Valve. For the use in the Proposed Putik-Boalan Distribution Line Project (Phase II A). To be carried in stock. |

Interested Suppliers may obtain Bid Forms and Detailed Specifications at the BAC Secretariat, 2/F. ZCWD Bldg., Pilar St., Zamboanga City after payment of a minimal non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Submission of BIDS : September 25, 2003
2:00 P.M. at the 2/F ZCWD Main Bldg.
Pilar St., Zamboanga City

The ZCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor informalities in the bids received, and to award the contract to the supplier whose bid, as evaluated by the BAC 1, is the most advantageous to the government

(Sgd.) ARNULFO A. ALFONSO
BAC 1 Chairman

(PDI-September 18, 2003)

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dti
TRADE & INDUSTRY
PHILIPPINES

### IN THE MATTER OF THE PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF THE SAFEGUARD MEASURES CASE AGAINST THE IMPORTATION OF FIGURED GLASS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES (SAFEGUARD CASE NO. 02-2003)

## ORDER

The Philippine figured glass industry, represented by Asahi Glass Philippines (AGP), filed a safeguard measures protest against the importation of figured glass, classified under HS Code Nos. 7003.1290 and 7003.1990 from various countries. The protest alleged that figured glass are being imported in increased quantities and that as a result thereof causes serious injury to the domestic industry.

The period of investigation covered imports from 1997 to 2002. For injury determination, the Department considered relevant information for the same period.

WHEREFORE, IN VIEW THEREOF, the Department of Trade and Industry, acting under Section 7 of RA 8800, the "Safeguard Measures Act", found after preliminary determination, that increased imports of the product under consideration have caused serious injury to the domestic industry, particularly in terms of declining market share, domestic sales, capacity utilization, production, profitability and increased inventory. The industry's prices were also depressed and margins of profits declined. Landed costs of imports were found to be lower than the ex-plant prices of the domestic product.

Pursuant to Section 8 of RA 8800 which provides that **"In critical circumstances where a delay would cause damage which would be difficult to repair, and pursuant to a preliminary determination that increased imports are a substantial cause of serious injury to the domestic industry"** a provisional safeguard measure in the form of a cash bond amounting to P1,535.00 per MT shall be imposed for a period not exceeding 200 days from the date of the issuance by the Bureau of Customs of the relevant Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) on all importations of figured glass classified under HS Codes 7003.1290 and 7003.1990.

However, imports originating from the following developing countries covered by Rule 8.8 of the IRR of RA 8800 shall not be subject to the provisional safeguard measure:

| Europe & Central Asia | Middle East | Americas | East Asia & Pacific |
|---|---|---|---|
| Albania | Bahrain | Anguilla | American Samoa |
| Armenia | Iran, Islamic Rep. | Antigua & Barbuda | Brunei Darussalam |
| Azerbaijan | Iraq | Argentina | Cambodia |
| Belarus | Israel | Aruba | Christmas Is. |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | Jordan | Bahamas | Cocos (Keeling) Is. |
| Bulgaria | Kuwait | Barbados | Cook Is. |
| Croatia | Lebanon | Belize | Fiji |
| Cyprus | Oman | Bermuda | French Polynesia |
| Czech Republic | Qatar | Bolivia | Guam |
| Estonia | Saudi Arabia | Brazil | Hongkong |
| Georgia | Syrian Arab Rep. | British Virgin Is. | Indonesia |
| Greenland | United Arab Emirates | Cayman Is. | Johnston Is. |
| Hungary | West Bank & Gaza | Chile | Kiribati |
| Kazakhstan | Yemen, Rep | Colombia | Korea, Dem. Rep. |
| Kyrgyz Republic | | Costa Rica | Lao PDR |
| Latvia | | Cuba | Macau |
| Lithuania | | Dominica | Malaysia |
| Macedonia, FYR | | Dominican Rep. | Marshall Islands |
| Malta | | Ecuador | Micronesia, Fed. Sts. |
| Moldova | | El Salvador | Midway Is. |
| Poland | | Falkland Is. (Malvinas) | Mongolia |
| Romania | | French Guiana | Myanmar |
| Russian Federation | | Grenada | Nauru |
| Slovakia | | Guadaloupe | New Caledonia |
| Slovenia | | Guatemala | Niue |
| Tajikistan | | Guyana | Northern Marianas Is. |
| Turkey | | Haiti | Palau |
| Turkmenistan | | Honduras | Pitcairn Is. |
| Ukraine | | Jamaica | Papua New Guinea |
| Uzbekistan | | Martinique | Republic of Korea |
| Yugoslavia, Fed. Rep. | | Mexico | Samoa |
| | | Montserrat | Singapore |
| | | Netherland Antilles | Solomon Islands |
| | | Nicaragua | Taiwan |
| | | Norfolk Is. | Tokelau |
| | | Panama | Tonga |
| | | Paraguay | Tuvalu |
| | | Peru | Vanuatu |
| | | Puerto Rico | Vietnam |
| | | St. Helena | Wake Is. |
| | | St. Kitts & Navis | Wallis & Futuna Is. |
| | | St. Lucia | |
| | | St. Pierre & Miquelon | |
| | | St. Vincent & the Grenadines | |
| | | Suriname | |
| | | Trinidad & Tobago | |
| | | Turks & Calcos Is. | |
| | | Uruguay | |
| | | US Virgin Is. | |
| | | Venezuela | |

| East & Southern Africa | West Africa | North Africa | South Asia |
|---|---|---|---|
| Angola | Benin | Algeria | Afghanistan |
| Bostwana | Burkina Faso | Egypt, Arab Rep. | Bangladesh |
| Burundi | Cameroon | Libya | Bhutan |
| Comoros | Cape Verde | Morocco | British Indian Ocean Territory |
| Congo, Dem. Rep. | Central African Rep. | Tunisia | East Timor |
| Djibouti | Chad | | India |
| Eritrea | Congo, Rep. | | Maldives |
| Ethiopia | Cote d' Ivoire | | Nepal |
| Kenya | Equatorial Guinea | | Pakistan |
| Lesotho | Gabon | | Sri Lanka |
| Madgascar | Gambia, The | | |
| Malawi | Ghana | | |
| Mauritius | Guinea | | |
| Mozambique | Guinea, Bissau | | |
| Namibia | Liberia | | |
| Reunion | Mali | | |
| Rwanda | Mauritania | | |
| Seychelles | Niger | | |
| Somalia | Nigeria | | |
| Sudan | Sao Tome & Principe | | |
| Swaziland | Senegal | | |
| Tanzania | Sierra Leone | | |
| Uganda | Togo | | |
| Zambia | | | |
| Zimbabwe | | | |

All importers of figured glass, regardless of port of exportation, are required to secure a Certificate of Country of Origin (CO) issued by the authorized agency/office in the source country of manufacture as authenticated by the Philippine Embassy/Consulate thereat.

Considering that figured glass are covered by the ASEAN-CEPT Agreement, as provided under Articles 6 and 8 of the said Agreement, the Philippines is required to notify and accord adequate opportunity for consultation with the governments of the ASEAN countries concerned i.e. Malaysia and Thailand which maybe affected by the application of provisional safeguard measures on imports sourced from ASEAN countries.

The notification and consultation requirements of Article 12 of the WTO Safeguards Agreement and Section 17 of RA 8800 and its IRR shall be complied with.

The case records will be transmitted to the Tariff Commission for formal investigation to determine whether or not there is a need to impose a definitive safeguard measure

Let the Order be published in two (2) newspapers of general circulation and let individual notices be sent to all interested parties including the country members concerned.

SO ORDERED

01 September 2003

MAR ROXAS
Secretary

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# PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The public is hereby informed of the cancellation of the public bidding for the assets formerly belonging to **Pioneer Glass Manufacturing Corporation (PGMC)** consisting of parcels of land, buildings, machinery and transportation equipment located at Rosario, Cavite, at Sitio Lawis, Brgy. Alimango, Escalante City and at Purok Sherman Hills, Brgy. Baviera, Sagay City, both located in Negros Occidental previously scheduled on 24 September 2003, at 3:00 p.m. at the PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

For any queries on this matter, please call Ms. Nadine M. Atilano of the PMO Marketing Department at tel. nos. 817-8762 or 892-2145.

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An International Company specializing in foundation works is in need of:

# FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

- Degree / Graduate in Accounting
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- Responsible for the entire payroll/administration/Human resources functions
- Managing of payables/receivables
- Preferably 2 to 3 years working experience in the construction industry.
- Liason with Immigration Department on the processing of expatriate's work permit / visa applications
- Computer literate
- Good command in English, oral and written
- Able to work independently

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé including desired salary to the following address:

**BAUER FOUNDATIONS PHILIPPINES, INC.**
Personnel Department
2/F Topy Building, #3 Economia St.,
Bagumbayan, Quezon City

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## GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM

A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
Tel: (6382) 225-1569 to 75 • Fax: (6382) 225-1479
USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00

### Invitation to Bid for Maluso Port Improvement Project

1 The Government of the Philippines has received a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) towards the cost of the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program. A portion of the proceeds of this grant will be used to fund the Maluso Port Improvement Project in Basilan Province for which this Invitation to Bid is being issued The Louis Berger Group, Inc. (LBG), through the Office of the Chief of Party of GEM in Davao City, is implementing the Project

2 Bidding is open to all firms who have been previously prequalified by GEM to undertake **Mid-Scale Infrastructure Projects (MSIP)**, regardless of the sector the firm was prequalified in., e.g., port, road and bridges, water supply, etc., but is limited to contractors who are classified as Medium B and above port, harbor, and bridge. In addition to this newspaper advertisement, GEM will send individual invitations to all of these prequalified firms.

3 Interested bidders may obtain further information and/or secure the bidding documents from the Deputy Chief of Party for Contracts at the following address:

**Deputy Chief of Party for Contracts, Growth with Equity in Mindanao Program**
**2/F, 1 Ladislawa Bldg., Ladislawa Ave., Buhangin, 8000 Davao City, Philippines**
**Phone: (82) 225-1569 to 75 ; Fax: (82) 225-1479 ; E-mail: gem@mindanao.org**

4 A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the above office and on payment of a non refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000) during regular office hours from September 22 to October 7, 2003. For those who will be unable to obtain their documents in Davao City, copies will be made available during the pre-bid conference to be held on September 24, 2003 at 1:30 PM at the Conference Room of the GEM Zamboanga Area Office located at the 4th Floor, VHW Building (Land Bank), Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City. Only two senior representatives from each firm shall be allowed to attend the pre-bid conference. ATTENDANCE TO THE PRE-BID CONFERENCE IS A PREREQUISITE FOR PARTICIPATION IN THIS BIDDING

5 GEM has arranged site inspection for contractors' representatives on the morning of September 25, 2003. Contractor representatives shall be responsible for their own transportation to and from the project site.

6 Sealed bids must be delivered to the GEM Zamboanga Area Office at the address stated in Item No. 4 above on or before 15:00 hours on October 15, 2003. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a Bank Guarantee or Surety Bond issued by any bank or surety company listed in Appendix II and Appendix III of the bid documents in favor of The Louis Berger Group, Inc

7 Bids shall be opened thereafter at 15:15 hours on the same day at the same place in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend. In case the specified date of bid opening is declared a public holiday, the bids shall be received and opened at the same time and place on the next working day.

8 In accordance with USAID procurement regulations for construction services, the bid opening will consist only of opening the bids, reading the bid offers, and tallying the bid prices The detailed evaluation of the bid prices and accompanying bid documents shall be done internally by GEM staff in the presence of USAID representative

9 LBG will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders [illegible] with preparation or delivery of bids

10 Bids delivered after the time and date noted above shall be declared and marked LATE

11 LBG reserves the right to accept any bid or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason and without incurring any liability to the bidder or bidders

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NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE
NHI Bldg., T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila
P.O. Box 3398, Manila

## BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

(In compliance with RA 7041)

**CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GENERAL FOREMAN, SG-11, Item No. NHI-NCCAC-CMGF-1-1998.** High School graduate, 2 years of relevant experience; 8 hours of relevant training; eligibility (MC 11.2 96–Cat III.)

**DATA CONTROLLER III, SG-11, Item No. NHI-NCCAC-DCTL3-1-1998.** Completion of two years studies in college (preferably with units in accounting) with relevant vocational trade course; 2 years of relevant experience, 16 hours of relevant training. Eligibility (CS Subprofessional/Data Encoder/MC 11, s. 96 – Cat. I/first level eligibility)

**HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICER I (Training Officer), SG-11, Item No. NHI-NCCAC-HRMO I-1-1998.** Bachelor's degree (preferably BS Psychology graduate), Career Service Professional/appropriate eligibility for second level position

**STOREKEEPER III, SG-9, Item No. NHI-NCCAC-STK3-1-1998.** Completion of two years studies in college, 1 year of relevant experience, 4 hours of relevant training; CS Subprofessional/first level eligibility.

**MASON I, SG-3, Item No. NHI-NCCAC-MSN1-2-1998.** Elementary school graduate. Eligibility: Mason/MC 11, s.1996, Cat.1

**SENIOR HISTORY RESEARCHER, SG-18, Item No. NHI-NCCAC-SRHR-1 & 4-1998.** Completion of academic requirements for a Master's degree relevant to the job, preferably major in History and/or Museology; two (2) years relevant experience; 8 hours of relevant training; CS Professional/appropriate eligibility for 2nd level position

**MUSEUM TECHNICIAN II, SG-9, Item No. NHI-NCCAC-MUST2-5-1998.** Completion of two years studies in college or high school graduate with relevant vocational/trade course; four hours of relevant training: one year relevant experience; CS Subprofessional/Museum Technician/appropriate eligibility for first level position

**MUSEUM TECHNICIAN I, SG-06, Item No. NHI-NCCAC-MUST1-12-1998.** Completion of two years studies in college; or high school graduate with relevant vocational/trade course; CS Subprofessional/ Museum Technician/appropriate eligibility for first level position

**SHRINE GUIDE, SG-6, Item No. NHI-NCCAC-SHRG-16-1998.** Completion of two years studies in college (preferably with units in history/social sciences/communication arts), CS Subprofessional/first level eligibility.

**SECURITY GUARD I, SG-3, Item No. NHI-NCCAC-SECG1-8 & 11-1998.** Completion of secondary school course with relevant training. Security Guard license; CSC MC 11, s 1996, Cat II

**UTILITY WORKER II, SG-1, Item Nos. NHI-NCCAC-UTW2-9 & 15-1998.** Must be able to read and write

**UTILITY WORKER I, SG-1, Item Nos. NHI-NCCAC-UTW1-13 & 18-1998.** Must be able to read and write.

**HISTORY RESEARCHER II, SG-14, Item No. NHI-NCCAC-HTRYR2-16 & 19-1998.** Bachelor's degree relevant to the job B.S. Architecture/BS Civil Engineering); one year relevant experience (architectural/civil engineering); 4 hours relevant training; Licensure in architecture/civil engineering)

**DRAFTSMAN II, SG-8, Item No. NHI-NCCAC-DFM2-2-1998.** Completion of two years studies in college (preferably in architecture/civil engineering), one year of relevant experience: four hours of relevant training. CS Subprofessional/Draftsman or Illustrator (MC 11, s 96 – Cat I/appropriate eligibility for first level position

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# NOTICE TO DELINQUENT INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB

In accordance with the provisions of its Articles of Incorporation and By-laws, the Board of Directors of Subic Bay Yacht Club Inc., has approved for auction the Individual Membership shares corresponding to the following membership share number and stock certificate numbers due to the delinquency in their payments of their outstanding obligation to the Club:

## *INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS*

| Members Number | Stock Cert. Number | Members Number | Stock Cert. Number | Members Number | Stock Cert. Number | Members Number | Stock Cert. Number |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29 | 000882 | 427 | 000331 | 807 | 000771 | 1213 | 001152 |
| 56 | 000268 | 435 | 000673 | 812 | 001560 | 1222 | 001324 |
| 84 | 000046 | 437 | 000434 | 833 | 000666 | 1241 | 000866 |
| 97 | 000990 | 439 | 000877 | 840 | 000910 | 1311 | 001132 |
| 122 | 000014 | 443 | 000847 | 855 | 000776 | 1316 | 001335 |
| 136 | 000147 | 455 | 000176 | 884 | 001304 | 1353 | 001435 |
| 140 | 000157 | 457 | 000327 | 886 | 000856 | 1392 | 001779 |
| 142 | 000139 | 459 | 000527 | 891 | 000858 | 1398 | 001504 |
| 152 | 000144 | 476 | 000872 | 919 | 001081 | 1404 | 001434 |
| 153 | 000039 | 477 | 000513 | 931 | 001350 | 1405 | 001561 |
| 158 | 000140 | 483 | 000370 | 936 | 000935 | 1412 | 001323 |
| 168 | 000058 | 488 | 000494 | 963 | 000566 | 1428 | 001494 |
| 181 | 000584 | 511 | 000522 | 969 | 000563 | 1443 | 001138 |
| 182 | 000056 | 529 | 001301 | 972 | 001422 | 1446 | 001270 |
| 186 | 000145 | 554 | 001190 | 1026 | 001289 | 1448 | 001336 |
| 192 | 000148 | 591 | 001232 | 1045 | 000623 | 1455 | 001383 |
| 197 | 000125 | 593 | 000376 | 1054 | 001322 | 1456 | 002058 |
| 203 | 000031 | 594 | 003145 | 1055 | 001127 | 1464 | 001545 |
| 211 | 000996 | 602 | 000902 | 1062 | 001594 | 1469 | 001935 |
| 215 | 000141 | 627 | 000394 | 1065 | 001296 | 1479 | 001363 |
| 220 | 000114 | 638 | 001528 | 1067 | 000915 | 1486 | 001378 |
| 221 | 000113 | 679 | 000987 | 1085 | 001436 | 1493 | 001530 |
| 228 | 000255 | 704 | 001506 | 1108 | 001333 | 1517 | 003316 |
| 254 | 000245 | 708 | 001213 | 1109 | 001297 | 1536 | 001386 |
| 255 | 000247 | 709 | 000891 | 1110 | 001292 | 1557 | 001627 |
| 256 | 000248 | 724 | 000649 | 1123 | 001563 | 1644 | 003149 |
| 259 | 003170 | 733 | 000690 | 1130 | 001136 | 1667 | 001579 |
| 275 | 000540 | 745 | 000733 | 1142 | 001163 | 1679 | 001589 |
| 319 | 000049 | 751 | 000559 | 1147 | 001169 | 1681 | 001612 |
| 404 | 001078 | 761 | 001349 | 1149 | 001167 | 1699 | 001613 |
| 423 | 000355 | 763 | 000928 | 1211 | 000808 | 1719 | 003340 |
| 424 | 000191 | 766 | 000938 | | | | |

The minimum bid is set at P200,000.00 for the Individual Membership share, Transfer and entrance fees of P50,000.00 shall be paid by the winning bidder. All shares purchased at auction must be fully paid and activated within 24 hours.

If no bids are received or if the winning bidder fails to pay the amount of his bid within 24 hours after the bidding, the auction procedure may be repeated from time to time at the discretion of the Membership Committee until the share of stock is sold.

The complete Rules Governing the Auction of Delinquent Shares are available at the Membership Services Department.

The auction shall be held on **October 18, 2003** at 10:00 a.m. at the Jacques Lounge, Subic Bay Yacht Club, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Olongapo City.

For further inquiries, please contact the office of the undersigned at Tel. No. **531-1542** and look for Ms. Janette Remigio or Mr. Mathew Mirando of Membership Services Department at **844-5777, (047) 252-5211.**

(Sgd.) **ATTY. CANDIDO R. FLOR**
*Corporate Secretary*

(PDI - Sept 18 2003)

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## *Message of Thanks*

We, the bereaved family of the late

## COMMODORE GREGORIO L. LIM (Ret.)

who joined his Creator on September 8, 2003

His children **Sandra, Greg Jr., Dennis, Laurabelle, Nanette & Patrick & Isagani**

Grandchildren **Tiffany & Sonya, Denny, Jenica & Ariana, Claudine, Dana & Karla**

Great granddaughter **Sarah**

And In-laws

Wish to convey our sincerest appreciation and gratitude for the flowers you sent, the prayers you offered, the comforting words, the help you extended, your visits and vigil with us and for attending the funeral rites.

May you continue to include him in your prayers and may he be safely home with our Heavenly Father.

Your kind expression of sympathy during our moment of sorrow will always be remembered.

---

## MESSAGE OF THANKS

The family of the late

## OSCAR PREUSS ANOTA

*who joined his Creator on September 9, 2003*

**His children**: Karen & Jeff, Oscar Ryan, Donna & Frank & Arnold
**Grandchildren**: Brandon, Justin, Brooke and Ashley
**Sisters**: Nannette, Maribel and Lourdes

wish to convey their sincere thanks and appreciation to friends & relatives who condoled with them, attended vigils, sent flowers, offered Masses, prayers, novenas and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways provided strength & comfort in their moments of grief.

---

*"Christ died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves"*

## AMADO DIOKNO DIOKNO, SR.

of San Luis, Batangas, born May 25, 1917, died Tuesday, September 16, 2003.

He is survived by his children: **Myrna**, **Carmelita**, **Romeo**, **Amado Jr.** and **Elizabeth**, **Ramon**, **Rafael**, **Narciso**, **Ma. Lourdes**, **Joseph**, **Ma. Teresa**, **Criselda**, **Chito** and **Kitina**, **Carlos** and **Linda**.

His grandchildren: **Ramon** and **Ghie**, **Ramon Vincent**, **Ruth Agnes**, **Noemi** and **Vic**, **Noel Vincent**, **Noelle Victoria**, **Noel Victor**, **Noelle Veronica**, **Noelle Vernadette**, **Ma. Christina**, **Michael William**, **Amado III**, **Anne Lorraine**, **Chuchi**, **Collyn**, **Elijah**, **Julian**, **Patty**, **Kristine**, **Mon-Mon**, **Richard**, **Rency** and **Daisy**, **Karren** and **Dennis**, **Genevieve**, **Diana**, **Camille**, **Kristian**, **Kat Kat**, **Kyla** and **Ira**.

Request readers for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Funeral Homes, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 21, 2003 at Paraiso Memorial Park, San Mateo, Rizal.

---

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

---

**On the 1st Death Anniversary of our Beloved**

## Herlinda H. Isquierdo

September 18, 2003

"Mama, your presence will be deeply missed, but the memories of your love will live us forever."

Loving husband Romeo; children Malō, Beth, Josie, brothers and sisters

---

*An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.*

---

## ALFONSO F. OROPILLA

*Died in the Grace of our Lord on September 13, 2003 at the age of 73.*

His loving wife Virginia, children Eddy, Lalen, Joey, Sally, Reynold, Maribel, Sonia, Anna, Lito, Cristy, Venus & Gigi; sons- & daughters-in law Jean, Ma. Luz, Rene, Josephine & Rey, grandchildren A.J. Philippe Charlaine, Chelsea, Joash, Ross, Dawn, Reina, RJ & Rachel; sister Aurora & brothers Ricardo, Salvador & Quintin; other relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul

His remains lie in state at the family's residence in Sison, Pangasinan.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 21, 2003, 10:00 a.m. at Sison Cemetery

---

## Lt. Caesar C. Veneracion (Ret.)

of San Diego, CA. and Talavera, Nueva Ecija

Born: December 6, 1917
Died: September 16, 2003

*Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 85.*

He is survived by his wife **Rosalina Poblete Veneracion**; children **Aida, Oscar, Romeo, Nimfa, Evelyn, Vic** and **Annie** and their respective spouses, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Please pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on Friday, September 19, 2003.

# CLASSIFIEDS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City

September 10, 2003

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Name of Project | : | Procurement of NETWORK SWITCHES |
| Location of the Project | : | BIR National Office |
| Approved Budget | : | P9,000,000.00 |
| Contract Duration | : | Thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of Notice of Award |

All interested parties may get the bidding documents from the BAC Secretariat, c/o Procurement Division at Room 605, 6th Floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman City starting September 12, 2003 upon payment of non-refundable fee of

Project - One Thousand Eight Hundred Pesos (Php 1,800.00)

A pre-bid conference will be held on September 25, 2003 at 9:30 a.m. at the 6th Floor, Executive Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City.

Deadline for the submission and opening of eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be on October 10, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. at 3rd Floor, Executive Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City, and followed by the opening of the bids.

The criteria to be used by the BIR in the following: (a) eligibility check of prospective bidders; (b) examination and evaluation of bids; and (c) post-qualification shall be on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis.

The BIR assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC Secretariat, thru the Chief, Procurement Division at Room 605, 6th Floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 926-5547/926-5538 and telefax no. 928-2026 (fax), or e-mail us at nelly.ibo@bir.gov.ph until October 9, 2003.

(Sgd.) MILAGROS V. REGALADO
Assistant Commissioner-Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept 18 2003)

## Career counseling exhibit

AN ESTIMATED 10,000 high school students from various secondary school all over the Philippines are expected to converge in Metro Manila for the 15th Career Counseling and Guidance Exhibit to be held on Sept. 18-20 at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC), Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

Organized by International Eduation Specialists of Makati (Inter-Ed 8131001/8191002), the three-day international career counseling exhibit is intended to help graduating high school students make a good decision in choosing what course to take and in what college or university to enroll.

Inter-Ed president Roger D. Bartholemew said that the students, most of whom will attend the educational event as part of organized school field trips, can interact with admission officers of more than 30 participating local colleges and universities for consultation of their career and school choices.

Bartholomew said that the third and final day of the exhibit on Sept. 20 will be devoted to consultations by college students who are interested in taking graduate studies abroad.

The 15th Career Counseling and Guidance Exhibit is sponsored by DSL and Makati Skyline, with the Philippine Daily Inquirer (Job Market), Manila Bulletin, Philippine Star, 98.7 dzFE and 702 khz dzAS as media partners.

For reservations for the exhibit and schedules for the field trips, interested schools may contact Inter-Ed at tel. 8191001, 8191002; fax. 8102825, e-mail: intered@info.com.ph.

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## ALEJANDRA "ANDANG" ATIENZA REYES

of San Jose, Batangas

*Peacefully joined her Creator on September 16, 2003 at the age of 85.*

Her beloved husband **Reynaldo**; children **Fred, Arturo, Nancy, Nonette, Norma, Nilda, Armando, Efren** and **Arnold**; in-laws, grandchildren, brothers **Naning, Servillano** and **Romeo**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Narra Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Inc. (inside Manila Memorial Park), Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be announced later.

---

†

*"God speaks to all who grieve. There is no death, He seems to say. Look up, have faith, believe. Our loved ones pass beyond our sight. We say that they have gone. But they are somewhere in the light where life and love go on."*

**In his peaceful departure into a better life, we, the family of the late**

## Vicente (Tiking) Lopez Jr.

who passed away last August 28, 2003

thank God for all his relatives, friends and associates who attended the wake and burial to bid him farewell, who sent flowers and who offered Masses in his name. We thank you all for having enriched his life in one way or another and for the comfort, strength and support you have given us in our time of bereavement.

## Local Water Utilities Administration

# 30 Years of Service to the Nation

*LWUA marks another milestone in its continuing service to the public as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary today, September 18, 2003.*

LWUA was established primarily as a specialized lending institution for the development and promotion of provincial water supply and wastewater disposal systems. It lends out capital improvement loans to duly-organized water districts. In addition, LWUA is also mandated to prescribe minimum standards and regulations, furnish technical assistance and personnel training, and monitor and evaluate local water standards, among others.

*LWUA Administrator Lorenzo H. Jamora*

In its 30 years of existence, LWUA has already achieved remarkable accomplishments in managing water resources and providing potable water in areas outside Metro Manila. As of 2002, LWUA has formed 584 water districts covering 691 towns/cities nationwide. It has approved P17 billion loans of which P11 billion have been availed by 467 water districts. The loans were used for the development of 1,431 water supply projects benefiting 11.4 million people. On the loans availed, LWUA generated an annual average of 86% collection efficiency for the last five years. LWUA was able to develop water districts into viable institutions, which had an average of 29% non-revenue water, and an average of 96% WD collection ratio on customers billing. It has also shown its effectiveness as water tariff regulator as evidenced by an almost complete absence of court decisions reverting water rates adjustments it reviewed and approved.

As it celebrates its 30th Anniversary, LWUA reaffirms its commitment of providing potable water supply to every Filipino household and contribute to the overall progress and development of the nation.

Visit us at www.lwua.gov.ph

## Messages

My warmest felicitation to the men and women of the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) on the occasion of your 30th Anniversary.

A healthy and progressive nation requires the provision of safe and abundant water for survival, health, sanitation and development. I, therefore, commend the LWUA for its invaluable role as a specialized institution mandated by law to promote and oversee the development of provincial water works system. Your thirty years of continuous public service has helped our countrymen by making potable water available and within their reach.

I hope this occasion will further inspire you to work harder for the advancement of our people. Let us unite towards our common vision of defeating poverty and building a strong Republic.

More power and Mabuhay!

**GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

My warmest congratulations to the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) on the occasion of your 30th Anniversary Celebration on September 18, 2003.

It is heartening to note that LWUA, for three decades, has already achieved remarkable accomplishments in sustainable development and management of water resources in areas outside Metro Manila. For this reason, you can be exceedingly proud of your significant contribution in providing safe, affordable and reliable water supply to the greater populace nationwide.

In response to the call of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to alleviate the economic condition of our people, the DPWH takes pride in sharing with LWUA's vision to provide one of the basic necessities in life for our people which is potable water supply. Let us, then, work together to achieve this common goal.

Again, congratulations and best wishes.

*Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

**FLORANTE E. SORIQUEZ**
Acting Secretary, DPWH

My esteemed greetings to the men and women of LWUA.

I congratulate LWUA for its 30 years of productive existence. On the occasion, as we mark this milestone in the history of our organization, let us be reminded that the task upon us has yet to be completed. Hardwork, dedication and unity should be our continued stance in keeping LWUA on its rightful place. Let us keep our eyes on our vision and goal as we continue to work with renewed commitment.

As we look back with pride and joy through all the past fruitful years, let us derive inspiration from all those who have come before us and have performed and served well in LWUA. Over the years, LWUA has played its crucial role in sustaining the countryside water supply system development and advancement in close collaboration with the water districts and cordial relation with the local government units.

While we have accomplished much in the past and are doing well at present, we still face greater challenge to undertake reforms for a future LWUA. Let us welcome the challenge of reforms and efforts of forging ahead a stable change as an opportunity towards further institutional strengthening of LWUA. Amidst this strategic reality to strengthen LWUA's image, let us continue to remain strongly motivated in tandem with the government's socio-economic initiatives.

Once again, I wish LWUA all the best as it turns another chapter in the organization's meaningful history.

**FRANCISCO D. DUMPIT**
LWUA Chairman, BOT

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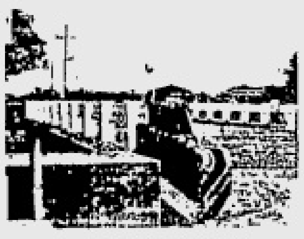

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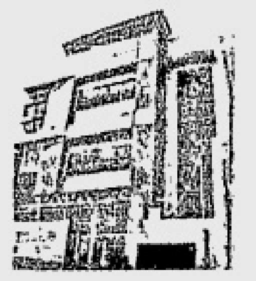

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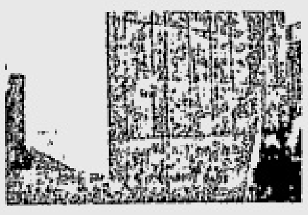

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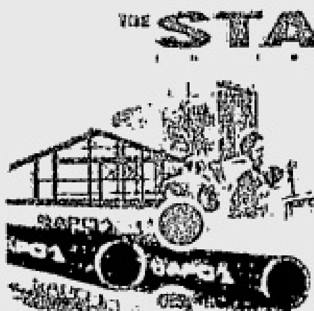

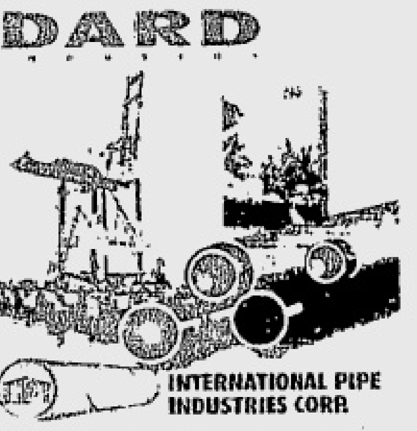

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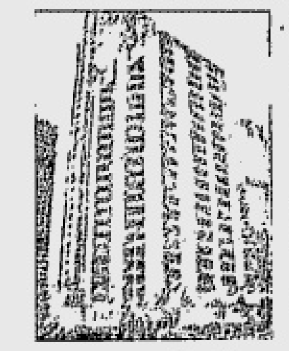

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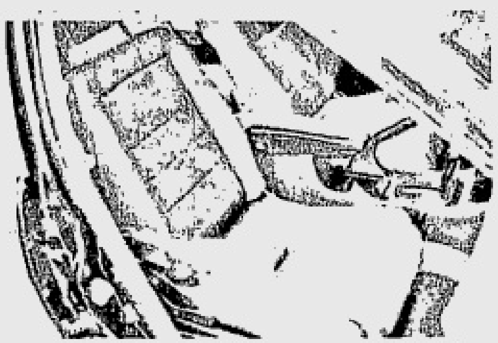
# MOTORING

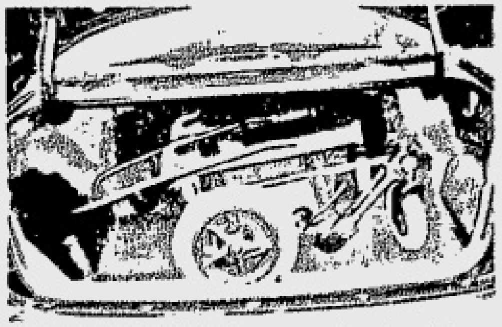
E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph
*Editor* **Cesar D. Mangawang**

# Vehicle adaptation for the elderly and the physically challenged



**CARONY** will fit most cars sold here in the country.

**THIS** swivel is the chief modification to be done inside the car.

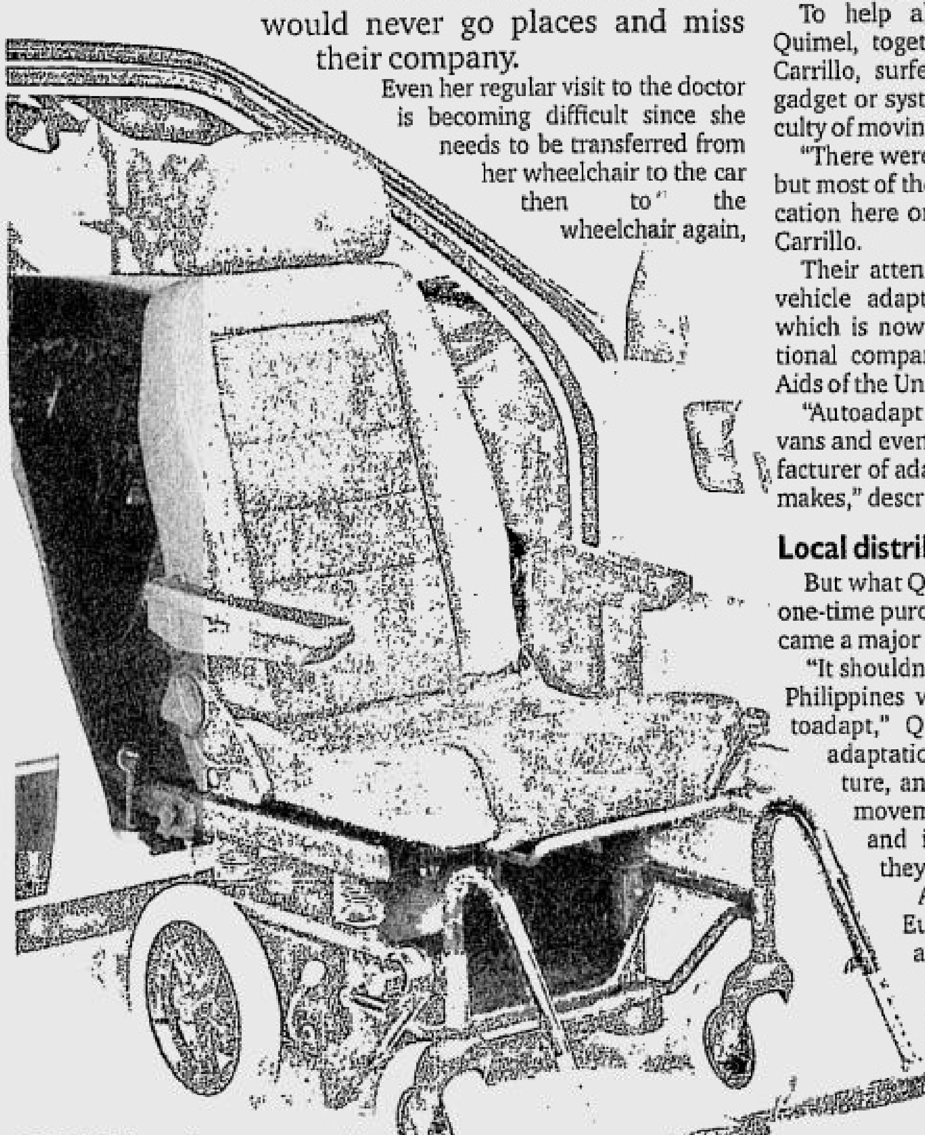


**THE WHEELCHAIR** frame can be stored in the trunk as it takes up minimal space.

Text and photos by **Charles E. Buban**

EIGHTY-FIVE year-old Beatrice Carrillo loves to travel with her children and grandchildren. But when she became too weak on her knees she believed she would never go places and miss their company.

Even her regular visit to the doctor is becoming difficult since she needs to be transferred from her wheelchair to the car then to the wheelchair again, many times during transport from her home in Fairview to the Heart Center in Quezon City.



**CARONY** is a unique, manageable transport wheelchair system that eliminates lifting people while simplifying their transfer into and out of vehicles.

"My mom is a little heavy now and moving her from one place to another is getting difficult even with her caregiver assisting," said her daughter Julieta Quimel.

## Surf the web

To help alleviate her mother's plight, Quimel, together with her brother Ernesto Carrillo, surfed the Web for something—a gadget or system—for individuals with difficulty of moving around.

"There were so many interesting machines but most of them were not practical for application here or are very expensive," recalled Carrillo.

Their attention was caught by a Swedish vehicle adaptation firm called Autoadapt, which is now affiliated to another multinational company, Bruno Independent Living Aids of the United States.

"Autoadapt focuses on adaptations of cars, vans and even SUVs as well as being a manufacturer of adaptive products for most vehicle makes," described Carrillo.

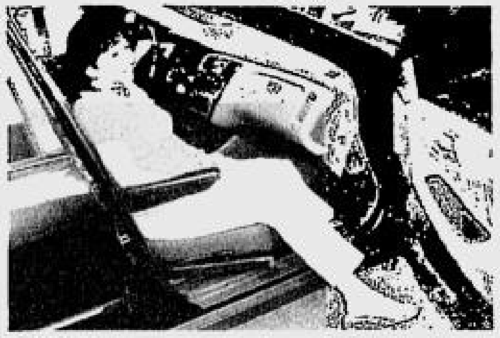
## Local distributor, installer

But what Quimel and Carrillo planned as a one-time purchase of Autoadapt products became a major undertaking.

"It shouldn't be just our mother here in the Philippines who should gain access to Autoadapt," Quimel stressed. "With vehicle adaptations and products they manufacture, any individual with difficulties in movement will gain greater freedom and independence to go wherever they want, when they want."

Autoadapt is one of the largest European companies in vehicle adaptation for the elderly and physically challenged, and their products are taking vehicle functionality to levels previously unavailable to those with limited mobility.

However, Autoadapt's only dealer in Asia is Japan and getting one there is difficult and very expensive.



**QUIMEL** demonstrates how the car seat can be easily swiveled out to face the door.

**CARRILLO** shows how convenient the wheelchair frame can be connected to the swiveled seat.

So what Quimel and Carrillo did was to bring Autoadapt here and set up PBC Car Adapt Inc. as Philippine distributor and authorized installer of the Swedish company.

"The Swedish company wouldn't want to just part with their products to anybody without proper training and knowledge so I even went to their headquarters in Stenkullen. That was when I decided to bring Autoadapt here," Carrillo revealed.

## Car seat as wheelchair

What if the car seat is actually your seat on the wheelchair? This is now possible thanks to Autoadapt's Carony, a unique, manageable transport wheelchair system that eliminates lifting people and simplifies transferring into and out of private vehicles.

"With assistance from Carony, you can independently move your passenger without straining your arms or back," described Quimel.

The Carony system consists of a wheelchair frame, a comfortable seat (Recaro brand car seat, an option) that the individual can use both in and outside of the vehicle and a mounted swivel seat base.

With a couple of effortless maneuvers, one can position the chair and passenger to the front passenger space. Once in place the passenger will use the original seatbelt.

The wheelchair frame can then be stored in the trunk as it takes up minimal space.

## Fit most vehicle makes

Carony will fit most cars and vans. Carrillo's demo system is in fact fitted in his Honda Accord.

"Autoadapt made sure its customers will only make several adjustments in their cars or vans, whether it's made in Japan, the United States or in Europe," he added.

It is Autoadapt's Turnout, a swivel base, which makes it possible to turn the seat out over the car's doorstep when entering and exiting the car.

The base is mounted on the adapted bracket, which itself is mounted on the car's original foundation on the floor.

## Higher step up

Turny, on the other hand, is an outward swiveling, electrically powered car seat lift.

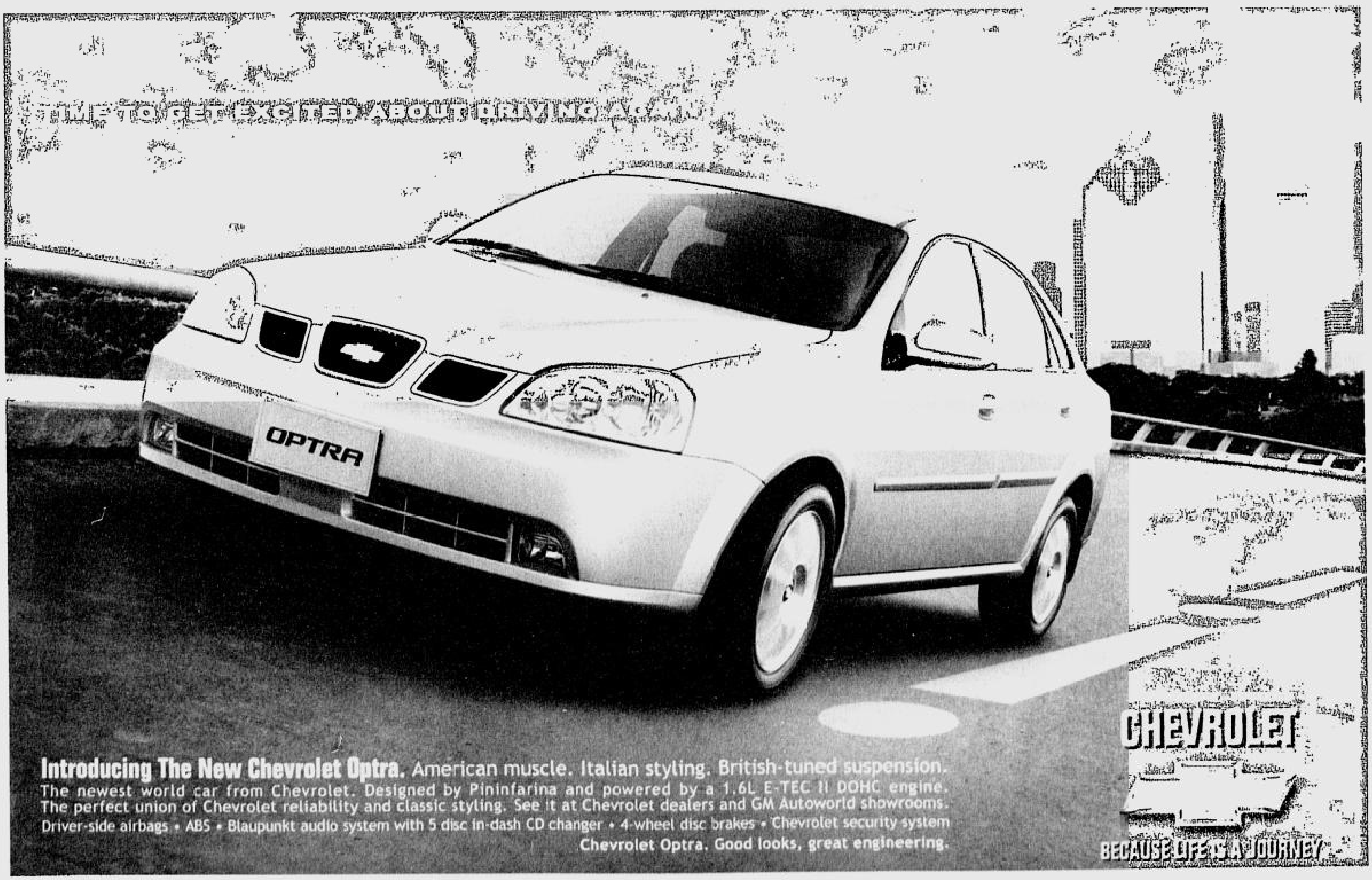
It is specially designed for vehicles with a higher step up, such as vans and SUVs.

"Turny makes getting in and out of vehicles considerably easier and can also be used as a means of assistance in getting up from a seated position to standing," described Carrillo.

## Freedom to drive

Perhaps the best product of Autoadapt is the one that gives individuals who can no longer use their legs to drive a vehicle once again.

VEHICLE/ C2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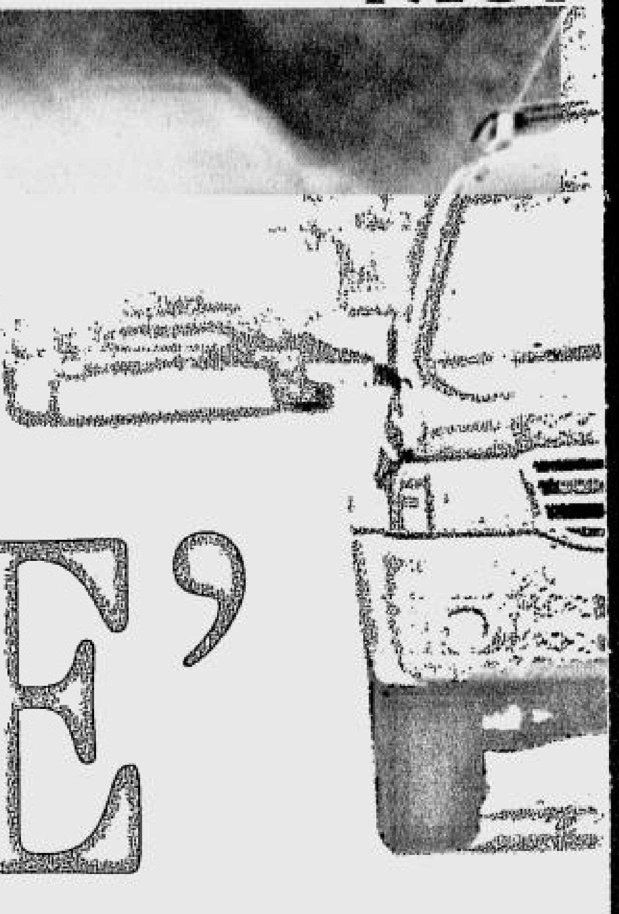


# Ford 'un-Thais' Bangkok jam with new 'E'

Text and photos by Tessa R. Salazar

BANGKOK—To add a nice touch to its 100-year celebrations, auto giant Ford Motor Company whisked off Asian motoring journalists right to where the heart of the automotive action in Southeast Asia is right now—Thailand.

Still preparing for the upcoming Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit, Thailand has been called the "Detroit of Southeast Asia," pushing the region into automotive prominence with the growth and expansion of its own automotive industry, fueled no less by foreign infusions such as those made by Ford.

The region is considered by Ford as "the zone of the future." The auto industry in Asia is comparatively healthy, with some countries in the region expected to post strong growth in their auto industries—especially China and Thailand.

## Off to Pattaya

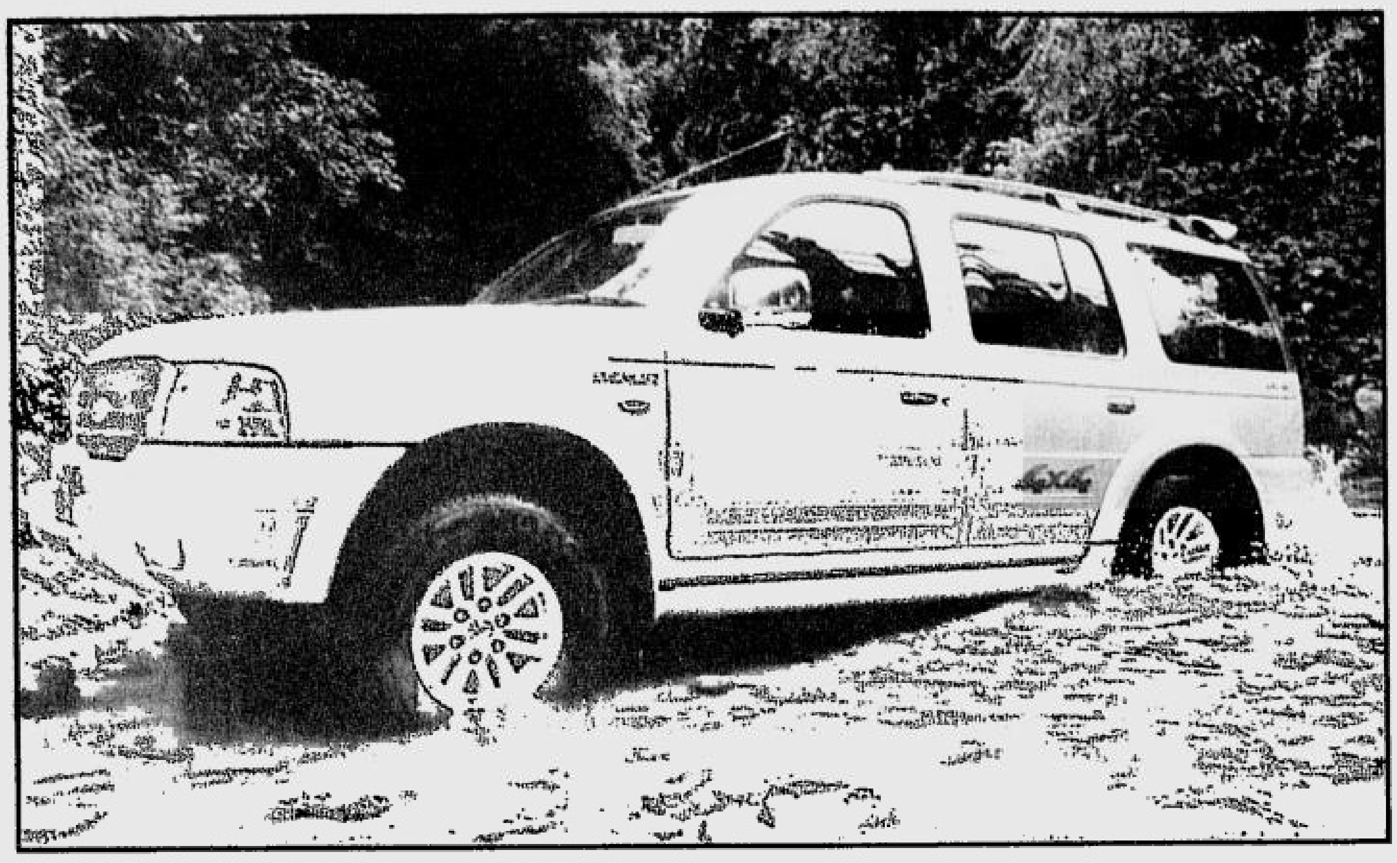
Once afoot in Bangkok, motoring journalists from Brunei, Cambodia, India, Indonesia and the Philippines were shuttled on the 55-km skyway leading to the beaches of Pattaya.

It was along the Auto Alliance in Thailand that the adventure began. Each motoring writer took turns driving Ford's new sport utility vehicle (SUV) variant leading to Pattaya. Everyone then boarded a ferry to the Elephant Island for a sunset cruise and coastal drive on the island.

Affectionately called as Koh Chang, translated as Elephant Island, it is quite undeveloped. This picturesque island, which boasts of virgin rainforest, untrekked jungles and high mountains, becomes an interesting place because there are waterfalls, forests, fruit plantations, scuba diving sites and boating around to see other surrounding islands.

## Like our nautical highway

We brought nine Everest with us and just like GMA's Strong Republic nautical highway at home, tourists in this part of the world can bring their own car over to Koh Chang and drive around. It costs about 400 baht per car including the driver and 50 baht for each additional person. It takes the ferry about 45 minutes to an hour to take you from the mainland to Koh Chang. If you don't have a car, there are buses to take you around.



THE EVEREST frolicks at a creek on the way to Koh Chang.

But the beaches and the sun aside, we came to Thailand to see Everest. No, not the majestic mountain straddling Nepal and Tibet, but Ford's new SUV.

Everest comes as Ford's continuing tradition of its SUV "E" series that include the Expedition, the Explorer and Escape. Members of the motoring press trooped to the beachfront, floored the pedals and let the Everest frolic in the sand.

Then it was back to Bangkok for a more structured city drive.

Enigmatic in appearance, the seven-seater family vehicle looks like a cross between an Asian utility vehicle (AUV) and an SUV, subtly so, and is competitively pric P980,000.

Enigmatic in appearance, the seven-seater family vehicle looks like a cross between an AUV and an SUV

Ford, however, has drawn the line in sitioning of the mid-size category for SU has molded Everest in such a way that who wouldn't want full sized vehicles oc ing all the garage space but are insecure too small compact SUVs would find the est at just the right fit.

Looking at Everest in terms of size, it deed, not an Escape. The Escape is a SUV designed more for outdoor indivi who want to go "out there" on their own.

The Everest, its maker says, is geared for family centered entrepreneurs who 4x4 (or 4x2, which is another variant) f family, and who want a vehicle with a manding presence but is not too imp Consider, the Everest has a length of mm, a width of 1,805 mm and a heig 1,835 mm (virtually the same dimensio that of a full-sized Explorer), conside more robust dimensions compared cape's length of 4,415 mm, width of mm and height of 1,775 mm.

## More seats

The Everest offers more seating versa for passengers and cargo, making po recreational and outdoor activities. The are contoured and trimmed with foam- nated velour to provide ride comfort.

Its front bucket seats have heig justable headrests.

Sitting on the second row of the Evere a few hours on a 96-km ride on the way to Bangkok from the Koh Chang pie found the Everest had ample legroom foot space as expected.

We noted the second row seat had a h H point than the front row seats, makin second row occupants enjoy a tiered s

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# Fun to drive Aveo

ON THE ROAD

*Aida Sevilla-Mendoza*

AS THE LATEST player in the entry-level car market, the Chevrolet Aveo five-door hatchback offers fresh style with a Giogetto Guigiaro-designed body and youthful vigor with a torquey 1.5-liter SOHC in-line 4-cylinder engine. The engine delivers peak 83 ps @ 3,600 rpm horsepower and 128 Nm @ 5,600 rpm max torque. General Motors Automobiles Philippines Inc. claims that the Aveo needs only 11.9 seconds to hit 100 km per hour and that its top speed is 170 kph.

You can feel the engine's power and smooth gearing once you take the wheel and hit a straightaway. Sprinting from the toll gates of the southbound Skyway, the manual transmission (MT) Aveo was initially outgunned by a V8 Ford Expedition. But when the Aveo hit its stride, it overtook the heavyweight SUV at 140 kph.

Four hundred five millimeters shorter, 25 mm less in width and 45 mm higher than the Toyota Vios but 55 kg heavier than the 1.5-liter MT model of the latter, the Aveo is surprisingly spacious inside despite its subcompact dimensions. The Aveo's cargo capacity is more versatile than the Vios because the 60/40 split backrest can be folded down after detaching the shelf covering the cargo area. GM claims the Aveo can seat five, but two rather than three passengers in the rear would be more comfy.

TRENDY. Aside from the flexible storage space that can accommodate sports gear, the unusually broad dashboard with trendy carbon trim is another indicator that the Aveo was designed for the younger generation in mind. Most novel among the cabin's features was the tollway ticketholder conveniently located at the left of the steering wheel wherein you can file your ID cards as well as tollway tickets. For ingenuity, it rivals the Volvo's plastic clip behind the left side of the windshield. The Aveo also has two front glove boxes, a foldable utility tray behind the front seat, auxiliary power outlets and an AM/FM tuner with single in-dash CD player and four loudspeakers.

Front fog lamps are standard, ditto a rear tailgate spoiler and wiper/washer, four mudguards, two-element headlamps and power-everything (steering, door locks, windows, outside mirrors).

The tires are Hankook 185/60 R14 with steel rims and full wheel covers. The Hankook tires give a clue that the Aveo is really a Daewoo made in Korea but marketed in the United States and the Philippines as a Chevy.

ADEQUATE. For a subcompact car, the Aveo provides adequate riding comfort with its McPherson strut, coil spring and stabilizer bar suspension up front and torsion beam axle in the rear. But it was not so composed driving over potholes and road lumps perhaps because of the gas shock absorbers and you sometimes wish the brakes (9-inch ventilated discs in front, 8-inch drums at the rear) were stronger.

Like the Vios, the Aveo is not equipped with airbags or ABS although it has remote keyless entry. The safety features are an engine immobilizer, 3-point ELR seatbelts, roll-frame intrusion beam in the doors and a reinforced cabin structure.

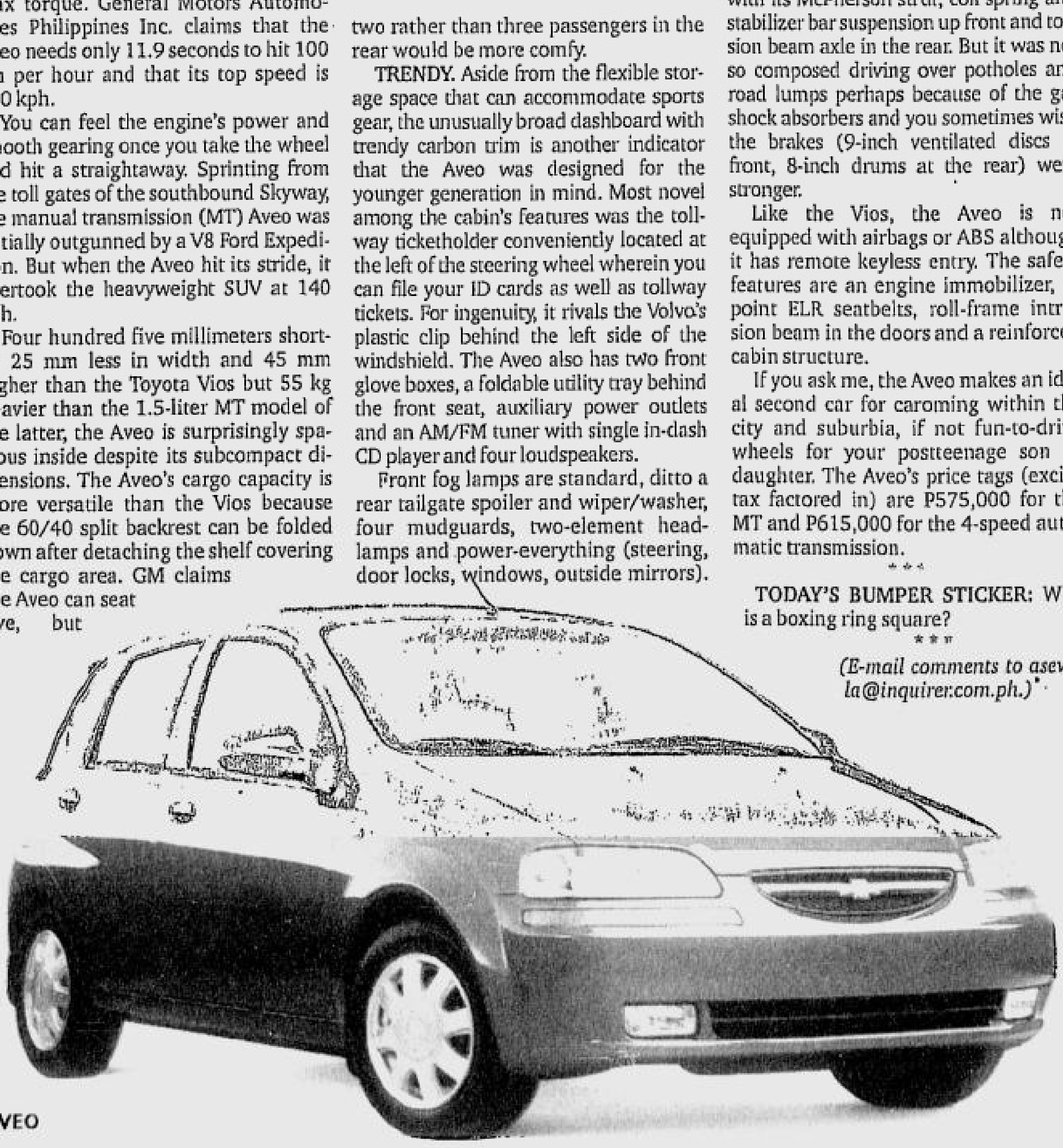
If you ask me, the Aveo makes an ideal second car for caroming within the city and suburbia, if not fun-to-drive wheels for your postteenage son or daughter. The Aveo's price tags (excise tax factored in) are P575,000 for the MT and P615,000 for the 4-speed automatic transmission.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Why is a boxing ring square?

* * *

*(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.)*



AVEO

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# On the NLE reh

FULL TANK

*Al Mendoz*

I HAVE been receiving complaints left and right about inconveniences motorists had been encountering these days while they traverse the North Luzon Expressway (NLE).

While I sympathize with them (I also suffer each time I go home to my home province of Pangasinan), I must stress though that the agony is but temporary.

In the first place, heavy traffic and other inconveniences in the NLE are already there even before the reconstruction and rehabilitation of that road has started.

In the second place, all the so-called irritants brought about by the ongoing construction are but temporary.

As I love to say, "No pain, no gain."

* * *

**We've been all hankering over rehabilitating the NLE. Now that that's being done, we should start thinking positive. Meaning, we should hope for the best and leave behind the negative vibrations bugging us for years.**

**The NLE was opened to the public some four decades or so ago. It never had undergone any major repairs or improvements since the '60s. Politics is the culprit as we all know the martial law years were the most rotten period in our history. The plunder of the nation's wealth became top priority by those in power, neglecting the well-being of the people most of the time.**

**Now that the NLE is being rehabilitated—thanks mainly to the courage of the private sector through MNTC (Manila North Tollways Corp.) headed by the energetic and respected Ping de Jesus—we should feel relieved that there's light at the end of the tunnel.**

**Let's keep our fingers crossed, buddies. Let's wait and see. But this early, I can feel it: Some good will come out of this rehabilitation project. As one saying goes, "We destroy to build."**

**The NLE is being "destroyed" now so that a new, motorist-friendly, expressway will rise from the ruins of obsolescence. It has always been my belief that every new thing has a promise of something good in it.**

**Time, as always, is the best judge.**

* * *

The Toyota Classics has been set for Oct. 7 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, featuring the Northeast German Philharmonic Orchestra under conductor Koji Kawamoto. Susanna Henkel will be on the violin. Filipina Ma. Rachelle Gerodias will be the featured soprano.

Proceeds of the concert will go to the Gawad Kalinga Community Development Foundation.

Toyota has been hosting the event since 1990 and has featured world-renowned orchestras such as Cadaques Orchestra, Royal Swedish Chamber Orchestra, New York Sy tra, Sappora Sy tra, Orpheus Ch and the Nagoya chestra.

Toyota is the company to do an almost ann Classics' main promote Toyota

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# Vehicle adaptation for the

From page C1

"Carospeed is a hand-operated accelerator and brake control that gives drivers (who are unable to use the car pedals) the right feeling when driving," said Quimel.

The accelerator and brake functions are transmitted to a lever that is placed beside the driver's seat. Pull the lever backward and the vehicle accelerates, brake by pushing the lever forward.

"It is so simple to handle and Carospeed gives the driver the right feeling w and braking," sh

The hand equipped with a holder as standa er keeps the veh hand moves b lever, regulator

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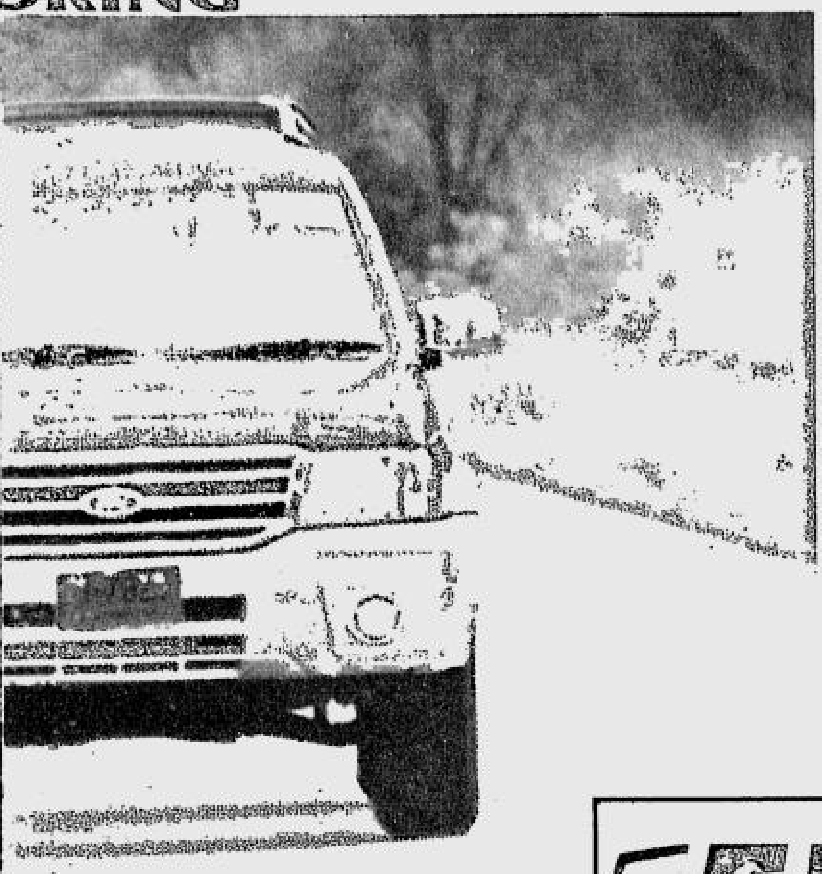

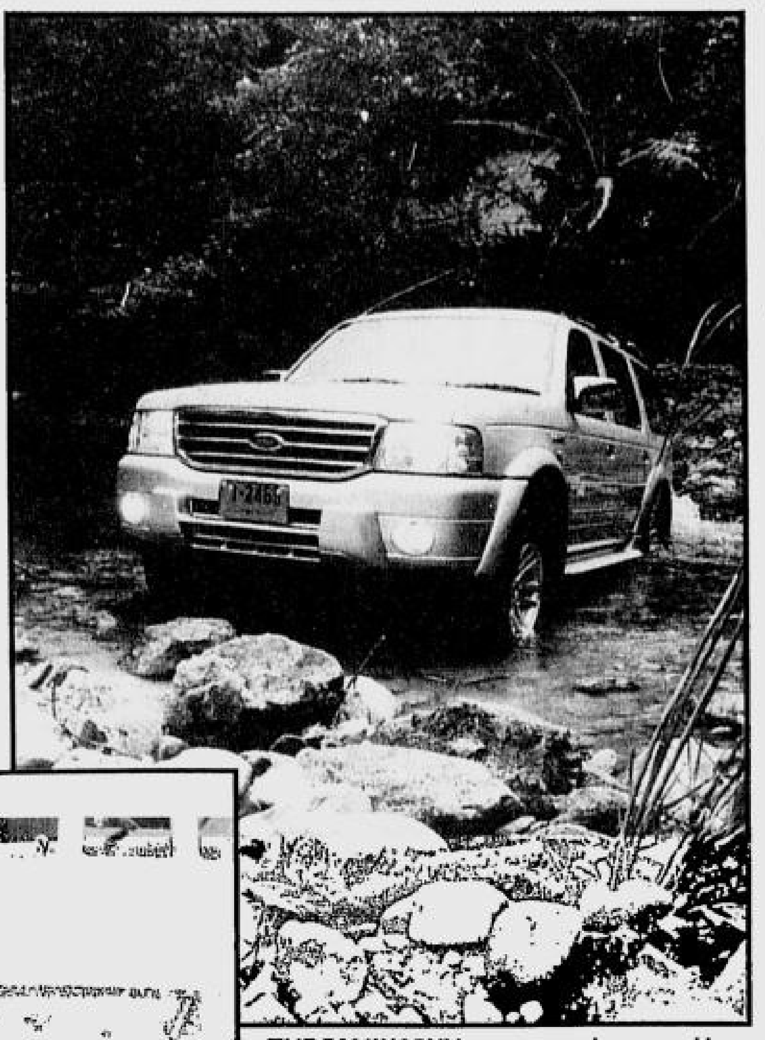

THE FAMILY SUV passes a rocky ground in the coastal area in Thailand.

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package, shoulder room, foot space, legroom and shoulder room. Too bad, I didn't get to ride on the third row seats since these were folded to accommodate our luggage.

The third row seat (forward facing seat), nevertheless, has an unlatch-and-remove mechanism and has the same trim style as the front and second rows. Weighing 15 kg, the third row seat is easy to unlatch and lift out of the vehicle.

Right-hand driving in Thailand made the first few minutes of my drive, as well as those of the rest of my colleagues who drive with the left hand, quite uneasy. We mistook wiper switches for turning signals, often drawing chuckles from our passengers.

But this didn't hamper one bit our appreciation of the vehicle's driving dynamics and powertrain, as Ford made an itinerary that would enable us to see and feel the suspension, cornering and high-speed cruising abilities of the Everest.

Built for Asia's tropical climate, we found ourselves often turning the air conditioning off. The dual control independent aircon system at the front and rear of the cabin sometimes make the rear aircon vents unnecessary, as the powerful air-conditioning system worked appropriately.

I had my doubts about the riding refinements of this SUV when I first arrived in Bangkok. I kept thinking about feedback that since the Everest had a Ranger pickup platform and had a shorter wheelbase than the Ranger by 144 mm, the reduction would result in a more bumpy, or jarring ride.

But then, as I drove the Everest from Koh Chang to Bangkok, and as I subsequently rode on the back seats as a passenger, the ride was surprisingly comfortable. Its makers, somehow, found a way to go around the reduced wheelbase challenge through uniquely designed suspension.

DAVE and his Everest bound for Elephant Island

The front knuckle point, for instance, has been raised by 2 mm and the front lower arm bush characteristics have been optimized so that the vehicle drives smoothly at low and medium speeds. The linear rate rear leaf spring with low friction pads is said to be responsible to the improved riding comfort. Also dubbed the "Berlin Eye" by its designers, the rear leaf spring is said to control lateral tire movement as the suspension moves.

## Market study

After conducting extensive consumer research among various Asian customers' needs, with key markets participating including those from Malaysia, Thailand and even South Africa, the various feedback from customers were gathered to help Ford design and develop the Everest.

The market study revealed that in Asia, family needs were a primary factor in purchasing a type of vehicle. Customers commonly voiced out that they wanted an authentic SUV that could accommodate the entire family. And they wanted a vehicle that would be flexible, tough and durable without compromising styling, good ride, handling and safety.

In the Philippines, Ford reports that over a thousand inquiries have been received from the time the Everest was displayed at Glorietta, and about 300 reservations have been made, and the number is continuing to rise. The units have been on display at major malls and at some of the Ford dealerships for three weeks now, according to Dave Macasadia, Ford vice president for sales and marketing.

## Variants

Everest variants to be offered here would be M/Ts initially for both 4x4 and 4x2, all diesel 2.5 li. The A/Ts would come later.

For reservations made until Sept. 30, Ford Philippines says that it offers price protection fixed at P980,000 for the 4x2 and P1.160 million for the 4x4.

"We expect Everest to be one of the latest vehicles to excite the Philippine market. With the reception it is getting now, we would probably be ranked high compared with other Asian countries," Dave said.

As we disembarked the Everest and let our feet feel the fine sand, finally, we looked forward to more expeditions on the Everest in the days to come.

*(More escapes and expeditions on the Everest to be continued)*

## AUTO EXTREME AUTO BYTES

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IN LAYMAN'S terms, what is engine displacement?

*—Christian Pompa of Nagcarlan, Laguna*

"Displacement" is a way of expressing engine size. Sometimes, you'll see the engine displacement posted in chrome on a car's exterior. In passenger cars, a 5.0-liter engine is quite big while a 1.3-liter engine is rather small.

Now, a lot of people get lured by ads that mention a car's engine size without really knowing what difference it makes.

Does size really matter? To answer that, we need a quick review of the internal combustion engine. We all know that it works by igniting a compressed mixture of fuel and air in a metal cylinder. An engine's displacement is a measure of how much air/fuel mixture it moves in one cycle, or to put it simply, how much work gets done. Push more air through the engine and you make more power.

Generally, a larger engine will produce more power, even if it doesn't show up in the car's horsepower rating. But there is a catch. It's not just air you need to power an engine. You need gasoline. A bigger engine pushes more fuel through it as well as air, raising fuel consumption. This is why larger, more powerful cars generally have lower gas mileage.

As in everything, however, there are exceptions. There are cases when smaller engines can give you more power especially with today's mechanical devices. Also, because of gear ratios, some cars that have bigger engines can actually get better gas mileage than ones with smaller engines at certain speeds.

But simply comparing two engines which are mechanically identical except for size, the larger one will generate more power and use more fuel in neutral at a given RPM.

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age not only in the auto industry, but also on socio/civic causes as well and enhance Toyota's commitment to the promotion of music, culture and the arts in the country.

Tickets are priced at P1,200, P1,000, P500, P300, P200 and P100.

I'll be there as usual. The last time I watched the Toyota Classics at the Meralco Theater last year with the Cadaques Orchestra of Spain performing, I felt so recharged that for weeks, I feel I was in Cloud 9. Maybe, it was also with the thought last year's show was for the benefit of the war refugees of Mindanao through "Tabang Mindanao."

* * *

And since we are on the subject of the performing arts, here's one worth pondering on.

Mindanao is abuzz with theater classics. Folk from the neighboring towns and cities will motor to General Santos City on Sept. 27 to watch the Girlie S. Royeca School of Ballet presentation of "The Little Mermaid" at 7 p.m. at the city's Lagao Gymnasium. Internationally acclaimed ballet stars Nicolas Pacana and Gregory Aaron from the Atlanta Ballet Festival of Georgia, USA, have done the choreographic chores for the fairytale classic. The duo have been here months ago to ensure the success of the show, which artistic director Girlie Sta. Maria Royeca said she was dedicating to the citizens of General Santos City.

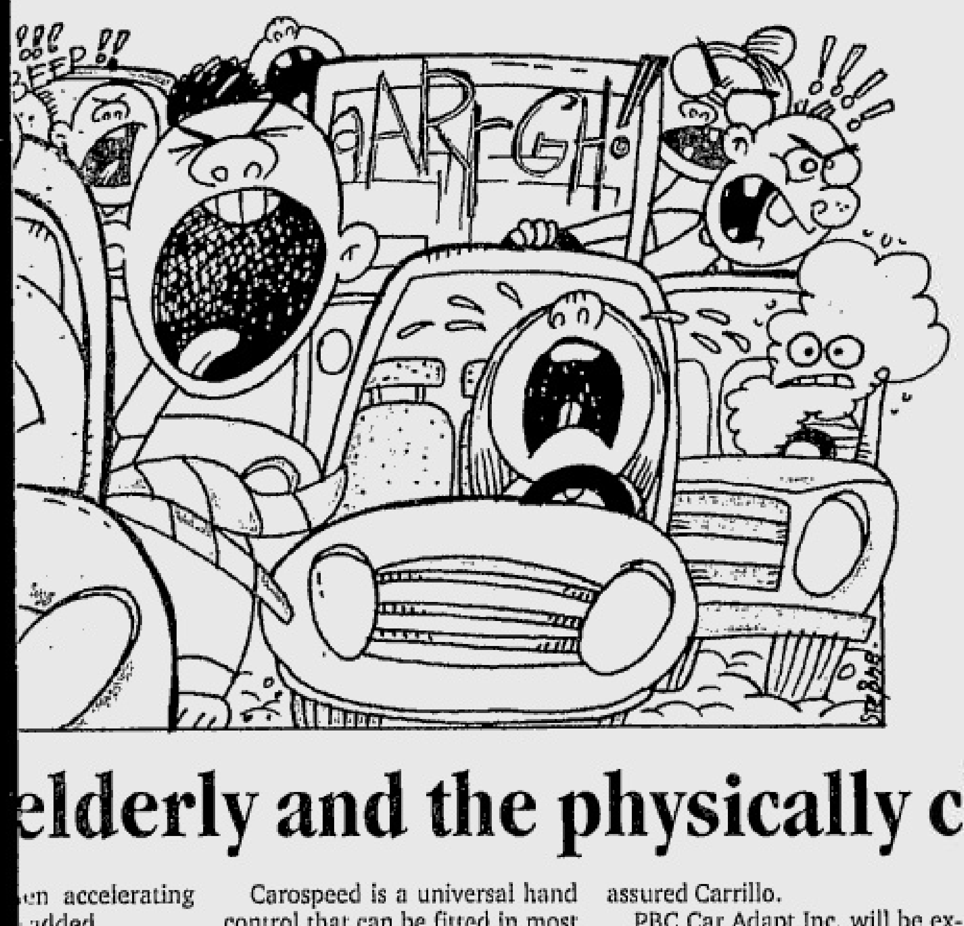
"Our very own local students and professionals are performing in this show and we are optimistic our audience will be delighted no end to an evening of world-class ballet, thanks primarily to Messrs. Aaron and Pacana," said Royeca, who has been in the ballet business for decades now. "I assure everyone that we have a show worth remembering for years and years to come."

Before the GenSan presentation, the same show will be staged in Davao City Sept. 20-21. From GenSan, it will have its final presentation in Cagayan de Oro City on Oct. 4-5. For inquiries, call 083-301-8992 (GenSan), 082-227-4228 (Davao) and 857-2321 (Cagayan).

Again, Sol Juvida and I intend to watch the show in GenSan, also known as the tuna capital of not only the Philippines but all of Asia.

* * *

QUOTE ME. For me, one of the best cures to unclog that traffic in your mind is watching a movie, a classic ballet like "The Little Mermaid," or a world-renowned orchestra performing live.



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"With Autoadapt products and system, being physically challenged no longer mean one has to be confined most of the time in the comfort of their homes or the end of their active life," said Quimel who shared her mother is once again "very mobile" and enjoying her family's company.

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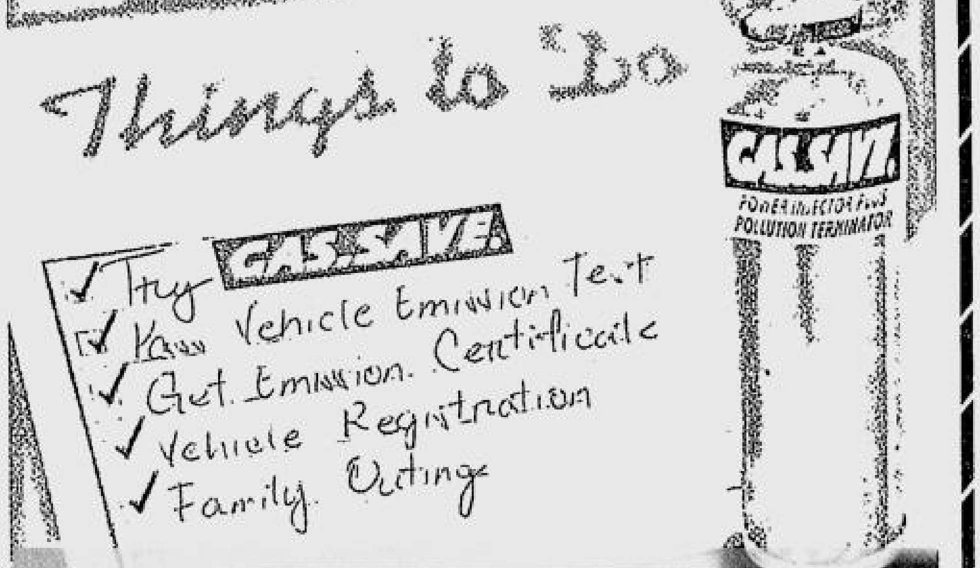

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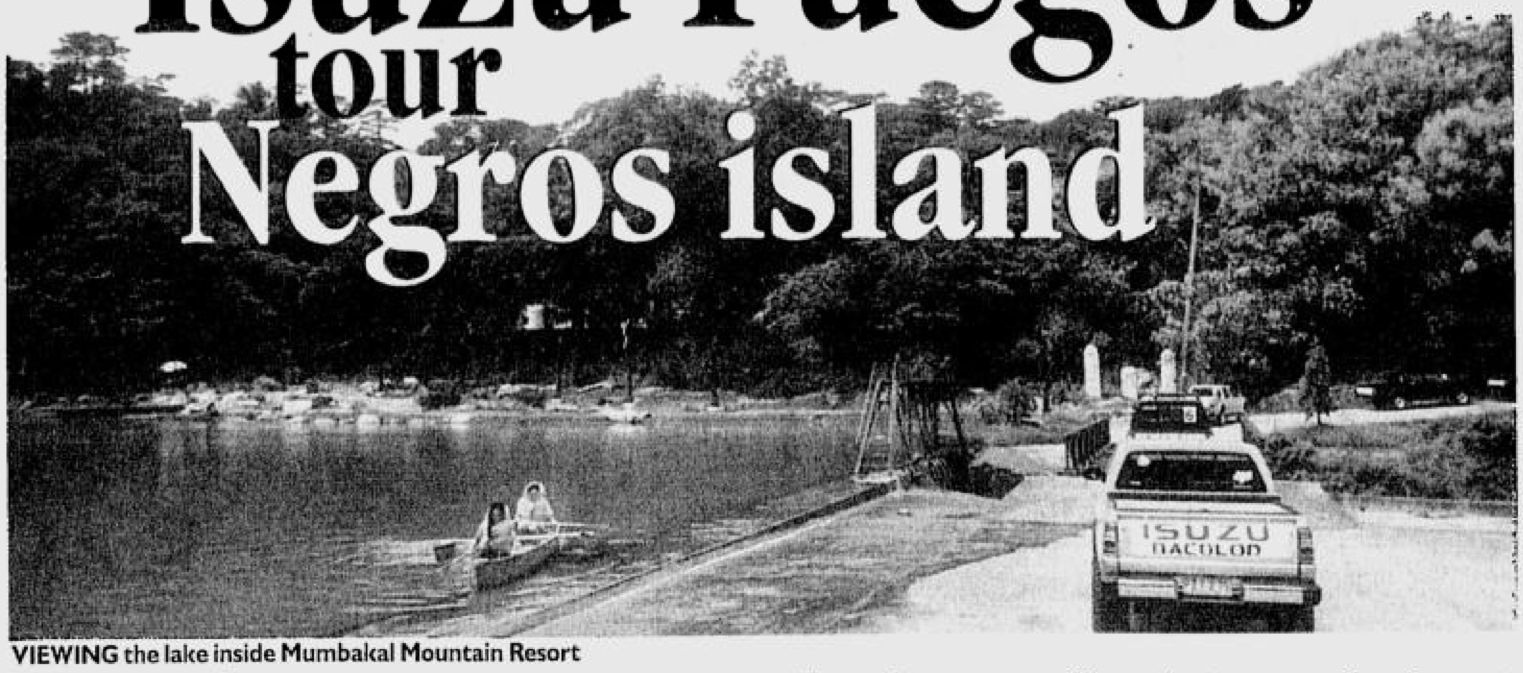
# Isuzu Fuegos tour Negros island



VIEWING the lake inside Mumbakal Mountain Resort

THE FUEGOS gas up before starting the circular tour of Negros island.

By Aida Sevilla Mendoza

TOURISM Secretary Dick Gordon and his Wow! Philippines rah-rah boys should be pleased with what Isuzu Philippines Corp. (IPC) did the other weekend. To test the Fuego's durability, fuel economy and dependability, IPC and Caltex Delo Sports invited motoring journalists from Metro Manila to join a circular tour of Negros island.

Bing Uy, top honcho of the Isuzu dealership in Bacolod City, drove his own 4x2 Fuego to guide the 15-vehicle caravan consisting of five IPC-owned Fuegos and 10 Fuegos driven by their Bacolod-based owners. The tour took us from Bacolod City, Negros Occidental to Dumaguete, Negros Oriental—a 265-km trip one way—and back.

## Mountain roads

During the tour, the city slickers from Metro Manila discovered, to their pleasant surprise, that the topography of Negros island is not flat like Central Luzon. In fact, the route we took from Mabinay to Bais City was highlighted by more mountain switchback roads and winding hairpin turns than Baguio's Kennon Road or Marcos Highway plus more magnificent panoramic scenery than the latter. We were particularly impressed with Mumbakal Mountain Resort, the Buenos Aires Mountain Resort in Bago City and the Rafael Salas Park and Nature Center in the bosom of the 25,000-hectare, thickly forested Mount Kanlaon Natural Park.

After lunch at Rafael Salas Park, the Fuego convoy drove through La Carlota City toward an overnight stop at South Sea Beach Resort Hotel in Dumaguete City. On the way we passed through Eduardo M. Cojuangco's vast ECJ farms planted to durian and mango trees. We learned that Danding Cojuangco was responsible for planting the hundreds of pine trees along the highway and on the mountainsides that enrich the scenery and environment. The next morning, we left Dumaguete City for San Carlos City (better known as Rep. Julius Ledesma's hometown), a 160-km leg during which I drove the No. 3 Fuego, a bright yellow 4x4 with automatic transmission (AT).

## Foggy heights

After lunch at San Carlos, instead of proceeding to Victorias and Silay we took the short cut back to Bacolod through Don Salvador Benedicto (DSB), a small town nestled in the scenic North Negros mountain range. The short cut included a 50-km stretch of twisting, gravel- and mud-covered cliff-hanger mountain roads but the Fuegos never faltered.

To prevent engine overheating, the drivers turned off the air con units—anyway, it was cold up there on the foggy heights of DSB. After pausing at Malatan-og Falls Viewing Park, it was full speed all the way down to Murcia and Bacolod City in order to catch the late afternoon PAL flight back to Manila.

Bucolic scenery and mountaintop views aside, how did the Fuegos perform during the tour? Like they were built for mountain-climbing. The Fuego I drove had almost 50,000 km on its odometer already but it still packed admirable power and torque. We had to refuel only once, loading 17.9 liters in San Carlos City. The 4x4 Fuegos with manual transmission (MT) averaged 10.2 km per liter, the 4x2 Fuegos averaged 20 percent more than that. The stats tend to support Isuzu Bacolod dealer Bing Uy's claim that on less demanding roads, the Fuego MT averages 13 to 14 km per liter while the AT gets 9 km. No wonder Mr. Uy says that with a Fuego, weekly fuel expense averages only P200 while competing pickups guzzle as much as P400 worth of fuel a week.

TESTING the Fuego's durability, fuel economy and dependability during the circular tour of Negros island

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| | TERM | | | | | |
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| 20% DP | 12 | 18 | 24 | 36 | 48 | 60 |
| 89,000 | 36,975 | 25,378 | 20,468 | 14,642 | 11,814 | 10,120 |

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| | TERM | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50% DP | 12 | 18 | 24 | 36 | 48 | 60 |
| 255,000 | 21,250 | 14,631 | 11,463 | 8,200 | 6,617 | 5,835 |

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PLUS

Umuulan ng Papremyo!
Every KC2700 buyer also receives a raffle coupon and a chance to win these fabulous prizes!

GRAND PRIZE
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12-seater people mover
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Practical, Sporty flair!

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3rd Prize
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4th Prize
15 winners of SM Gift Certificates worth P5,000 each!

Consolation Prizes
50 Winners of KIA Gift Packs worth P1,000 each!

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*for KC2700 Panoramic model w/o aircon **2 yrs / 50,000 kms. warranty on rear body Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1679, Series of 2003

KC2700 Promo Mechanics

1. This raffle promo is open to all buyers of the KIA KC2700 (all variants) nationwide as follows:
   a. Financing buyers who have applied until September 19, 2003, get approved and make a downpayment until September 25, 2003 will be issued a raffle coupon.
   b. Cash buyers who made their full payment until the end of the promo period will be issued a raffle coupon.
2. Financing buyers may avail of the 20% to 50% downpayment from 12 to 60 months term; and 50% downpayment with 0% interest for 12 mos. term.
3. All financing applications are subject to bank approval.
4. The buyer should fill up all the entries on the raffle coupon and drop it at the dropbox located at the KIA dealership where he bought his KC2700 vehicle. Raffle coupons that were not completely filled up will be disqualified from the raffle.
5. Deadline of submission of entries is until the end of business hours of September 25, 2003.
6. The raffle draw will be held at KIA Motors, Phils., Km. 16 West Service Rd., Bicutan, Paranaque City on September 30, 2003.
7. The raffle prizes are as follows:
   Grand Prize - A choice of a Pregio RS van or a Rio HB(A/T)
   Second Prize - 2 Boracay Family Trips - 3 days/2nights accomodation for a family of 4, inclusive of airfares and baon of P10,000.00 (validity is 6 months from date of issue)
   Third Prize - 20 units of Nokia 3530 cellone kit (simpack with P100.00 load)
   Fourth Prize - 15 SM gift certificates worth P5,000.00 each (with 1 year validity)
   Consolation Prize - KIA premium items worth P1,000.00 each
8. Appropriate taxes will be borne by the grand and second prize winners. Registration requirements, insurance and other related documents shall be for the account of the grand prize winner. Second Prize is not transferrable but may be converted to cash.
9. All winners will be notified by registered mail and must present the original invoice of the vehicle purchased, one(1) valid ID and their winning coupon when claiming their prizes.
10. A customer can only win once; if a name is drawn more than once he/she gets the prize of higher value.
11. The name on the raffle coupon will be declared the winner.
12. Where to claim the prizes:
    a. Metro Manila winners may claim their prizes at Communicon, Inc., 1841 Buenconsejo St. Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City and look for Ms. Lei Mariano.
    b. Provincial winners will be assisted by the KIA dealership where they purchased their KIA KC2700. Communicon will send the 3rd prizes up to the consolation prizes directly to the winner. Winners of the grand and second prizes will have to claim their prizes at Communicon, Inc.
13. Winners may claim their prizes up to 60 days from the date of notification. Unclaimed prizes will be forfeited in favor of KMP with the concurence of DTI.
14. All employees of KIA Motors, Phils. and its affiliate companies, suppliers, ad agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified in this promo.
15. This promo is available at all KIA dealers nationwide.
16. The promo period is from June 19, 2003 up to September 19, 2003.

Paandarin ang KC2700 at these authorized dealers:

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2316 Aurora Blvd., Pasay City
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KIA BALINTAWAK (SIGNET BALINTAWAK)
1240 EDSA, Balintawak, Q. C., Tels 361-0544
•330 8019•330 6670
Makati Showroom: 2261 La Fuerza Plaza, Pasong Tamo St. Tels 817 8406/16/17/21
KIA COMMONWEALTH (PRINCE MOTOR CORP.)
43 Commonwealth Avenue, Q. C.
Tels 951-2201 to 16•453-9318 to 20
KIA QUIRINO AVE. (VELCOR AUTO HAUS, INC.)
1170-1180 Pres. Quirino Ave. Ext. Paco, Manila
Tels 563-2282 to 86

*KIA MANDALUYONG (SIGNET MANDALUYONG)
79 EDSA Mandaluyong M. M. Tels 531-4631 to 33
•531 4424•531-1949 Almanza Branch: (in front of SM South)
Tels 801-7656•806 2230•801-7668•802 1024
KIA MARIKINA (DELTA MOTOR SALES CORP.)
332 Sumulong Highway Brgy. San Isidro, Cainta, Rizal Tel 492 8581 [illegible]
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KIA PAMPANGA (TRADERS AUTOCENTER, INC.)
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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

# Culinary coup, eye candy and good music

By Pam Pastor

ZUC·CHI·NI (zu-'kE-nE), noun. 1. marrow squash plant whose fruit are eaten when small; 2. small, cucumber-shaped vegetable marrow, typically dark green; 3. a restaurant on Timog Avenue that is well known to its loyal clients for juicy steaks, luscious desserts and good service

It was two years ago when Didi Sarmiento bought Zucchini's Grill & Vinoték (tels. 9250789/4155533) from Werdenberg International Corporation, the company that also owns Santi's Delicatessen.

## Gradual changes

Wanting to keep Zucchini's loyal customers and entice new ones, Sarmiento made changes gradually. "I didn't change the name. It was a soft transition. I just did a little rearranging of the interiors, to give the place a more restaurant feel." But she did make significant changes in the menu, adding more dishes and discoveries regularly. Her list of goodies constantly evolves.

Sarmiento describes her restaurant's menu as modern European. However, although she offers a lot of options for people with different tastes, many clients drop in for the juicy steaks. "I didn't mean for Zucchini's to become a steakhouse but that's how it seems sometimes. People really come here for the steaks."

Diners have a choice between the 250-g US-certified Black Angus Beef Rib Eye Steak and the 230-g US-certified Black Angus Beef Tenderloin Steak. Those with big appetites can get the 600-g US-certified Black Angus Beef Rib steak dubbed as "the Angusaurus." (The menu comes with a warning—"If you can't handle it alone, you may share it. Please allow some time to cook this monster.") People do order it and—surprise, surprise—finish every single bite.

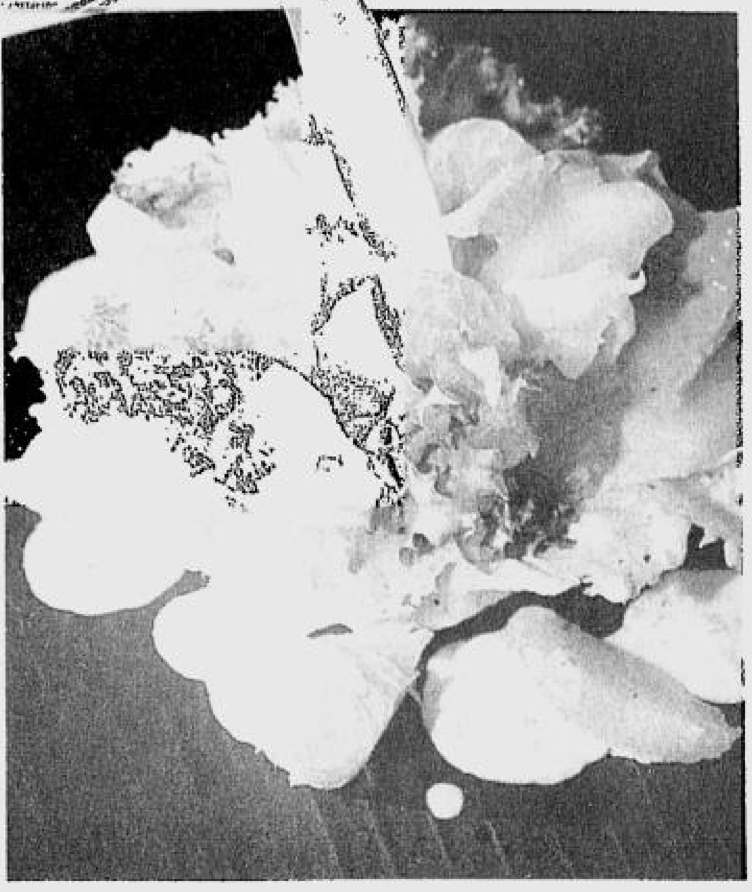
## Sauces and sidings

Diners can choose from a wide variety of sauces (Madagascar Pepper, Assorted Mushroom, Puttanesca, Herb Butter, etc.) and sidings (Garlic Rice, French Fries, Risotto, Sautéed Forest Mushrooms, etc. ) to go with the steak.

Other bestsellers are the Australian Lamb Chops and the Chilean Sea Bass Steak.

According to Sarmiento, first-time customers can "start with the Paté de Foie Gras—that's French Goose Liver Paté, then the light seafood or tomato soup. For the main course, they can order the rib-eye—cooked medium—with the minted red wine sauce and a green salad. They can end the meal with Parmesan Gelato with Balsamic Glaze on Sherry Wine Apple."

Sarmiento, a hotel and restaurant administration graduate of the University of the Philippines, took her post-graduate studies at Les Roches in Switzerland. Zucchini's is her first solo business venture. "This is my baby. I'm very hands-on as far as the work is concerned. The hours are crazy."



**CITRUS** Salad served on a basil herb Parmesan basket with cilantro cream vinaigrette and honey "dalandan" reduction

> Zucchini is a feast for the senses

Sarmiento works closely with Chef Richard Arañas. She conceptualizes new dishes and he executes them. Her passion for food plays an important role at this stage. "If it doesn't pass my standards, it's not included in the menu."

## New delights

We sampled the newest fruits of their collaboration and were delighted.

The Jalapeño Cheese Poppers with Tomato Garlic Salsa is a spicy explosion. The tangy salsa balances the strong flavor of the cheese and jalapeño.

Another new appetizer is the Paté de Foie Gras with black truffles and tiger shrimp on assorted greens mango vinaigrette. It is silky, smooth, tasty and, according to some Zucchini regulars, "perfect with crackers." Zucchini's sinful version of the French delicacy is a must-try.

The Clam Chowder, served with garlic croutons and tomato concassé, is an absolute

CULINARY/D2

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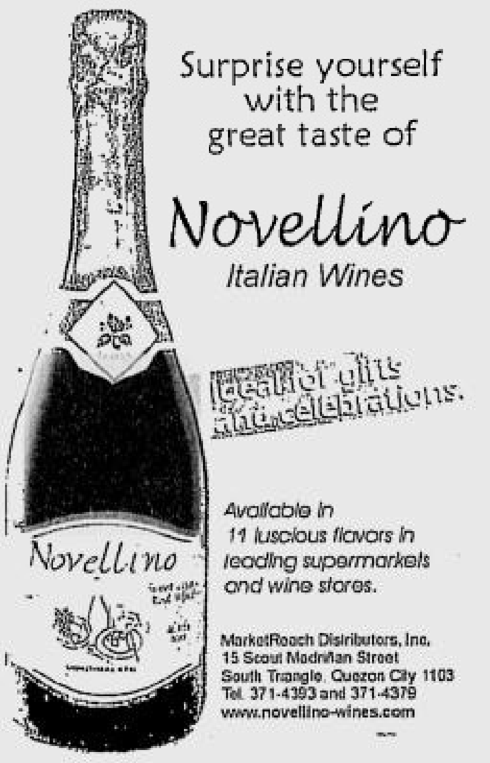

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Heny Sison

THE ESSENTIAL BAKING AND PASTRY SERIES: This 26-day hands-on class will cover the basics of pastry, desserts, bread baking, as well as cake decorating. It is suitable for those seeking an entry-level position in pastry shop, hotel or restaurant. Classes begin on October 7- November 26, 2003. Classes are held every Tuesdays to Fridays from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Tuition fee includes ingredients, manual, aprons, chef's jacket and chef's kit.

For more information call 7265316 & 4127792 and ask for Lirio and Rita.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

October 1 (Wednesday) 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison, P1,500 *Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake With Whipped Cream Icing

October 1 (Wednesday) 2:00-5:30 p.m. CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY RECIPES by: Heny Sison, P1,500 *Dark Fruitcake, White Fruitcake, Walnut Torte, Rum-Raisin Walnut Cheesecake, Festive Cookie Bar and Prune Bar

October 6 (Monday) 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. HOMEMADE SAUSAGES, CONDIMENTS & MARINADE WORKSHOP by: Jane Paredes, Food Consultant, co-owner of Café Cornucopia, trained at the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York and Peter Kump's New York Cooking School. P2,500 *Discover ways to transform meat, poultry and seafood into profitable menu items. SAUSAGES: Chorizo Bilbao, Longanisa Ilongga, Italian Sausage, Seafood Sausage & Mexican Sausage; CONDIMENTS: Honey-Mustard Sauce, Sweet Pickles Chips and Atchara; MARINADE: Homemade Tapa, Homemade Bulgogi & Tocino. DISHES: Sausage, Sauerkraut & Potato Casserole and Country Style Pork & Beans

October 7 (Tuesday) 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. COFFEE! COFFEE! COFFEE! by: Chef Aileen Anastacio, Chef / Food Consultant, owner of C'est Si Bon and Goodies N' Sweet Bakeshop, Dean's List graduate of culinary at the California Culinary Academy. P1,500 *If you are planning to open a coffee shop this course is for you. Learn the four fundamentals of coffee brewing, home espresso, guide to steaming & foaming. Recipes: Caffé Latte, Caffé Mocha, Caffé Americano, Cappuccino, Espresso Macchiato and Espresso con Panna. Make fun toppings and garnishes and master the art of coffee making.

October 7 (Tuesday) 1:30-5:30 p.m. JAPANESE COOKING I (All Time Favorite Japanese Recipes) by: Chef Koichi Kondo, licensed cook from Ehime, Japan and food consultant to various Japanese restaurants. P1,700 *Miso Soup, Tempura, Nimono, Yakimono, California Maki, Chilled Soba, Noodles with Nori, Skewered Dumplings with Brown Sauce

October 8 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. DIMSUM by Katherine Sion, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat Restaurant), caterer & an expert in Chinese Cuisine P 1,500 *Congee, Siomai, Dumpling, Chicken Feet, Fried Shrimp Ball and Buchi

October 13 (Monday) 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. EDIBLE GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS II by: Jill Sandique, Food Consultant, & Food Stylist, Blue Ribbon graduate of Peter Kump's New York Cooking School. P1,500 * Angel Food Cake, Date Walnut Bars, Monkey Bread, Lemon Squares, Chocolate Pecan Cookies & Marble Pound Cake

October 14 (Tuesday) 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. BASIC FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS by: Glenn Remorca, floral designer, P2,500 *Learn the theories, styles, trends, techniques, sourcing, flower care & maintenance, basic form, arrangement and flower for weddings. Lecture, demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors.

October 15 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. DIMSUM II by: Katherine Sion, P 1,500 *Steamed Pork Spareribs in Tausi Sauce, Chicken Siomai, Sharksfin Siomai, Two Colors Siomai, Wanton Mami and Egg Tart

October 20 (Monday) 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. FRESH PASTA WORKSHOP by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli, Master, Pizzaiolo & Barista, Food Consultant of various Italian restaurants all over Metro Manila, graduated at Culinary Institute, Milan, Italy P 2,500 *There is simply no comparison between homemade hand-formed pasta and the store bought stuff. Homemade is not only tastier but a lot easier to make than you think. Learn how to make pasta egg dough, green spinach dough, black pasta dough, different kinds of pastas: lasagna, green lasagna, ravioli, tortellini, cannelloni, fettuccine: green & black, stuffings for ravioli, tortellini and cannelloni. Sauces for lasagna, tortellini, ravioli & cannelloni. Recipes: Lasagna alla Bolognese, Lasagna al 4 Formaggi, Lasagna al Pesto, Cannelloni alla Ricotta and Spinaci, Ravioli alla Boscaiola al Burro e Salvia, Tortellini al 4 Formaggi, alla Panna Prosciutto e Funghi, Green Fettuccine alla Montanara, Black Fettuccine al Frutti di Mare. Demonstration with student participation.

October 21 (Tuesday) 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. HOLIDAY GOODIES, by: Jill Sandique P 1,500 *Buche de Noel, Madeleines, Italian Trifle, Financier, Chocolate Broas, Chocolate Almond Mousse and Macadamia Sans Rival

October 22 (Wednesday) 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. SPECIAL FLORAL ARRANGEMENT by: Glenn Remorca, P 2,500 *Learn the different styles of table arrangement & home decors. Demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors.

October 27 (Monday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. SPECIAL EVERYDAY MEALS by: Jane Paredes, P 1,700 *Seafood Stew, Bangus con Tomate, Baked Mussels with Spinach Cream, Roast Chicken, Herbed Porkloin & Lengua with Mushrooms

October 28 & 29 (Tuesday-Wednesday) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. CAKE DECORATING COURSE I by: Heny Sison, P 4,000 *Learn the basic of cake decorating: icing color, star, shell, dots & outline borders; the rose, figure piping: clown & booties. Each student will bake & decorate a character birthday cake. Full participation.

HENY SISON AT JULIUS MAGGI KITCHEN
Nestle Building, 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City

October 15 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. SECRETS NO MORE! (My most requested recipes) P3,000 *Decadent Chocolate Cake, Lemon Torte, Ensaymada, Almond Sanzrival, Strawberry Shortcake & Ube Cake

October 20 (Monday) 1:30-5:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS BARS & COOKIES P1,500 *Food for the Gods, Carmela's Bar, Oatmeal Lace Cookies, Macaroon Cups, Revel Bar and Macadamia Cookies

October 22 (Wednesday) 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. PARADE OF PIES, TARTS & CHEESECAKES P 1,700 *French Apple Pie with Streusel Topping and Crème Anglaise Sauce, Turtle Pie, Banana Cream Pie with Whipped Cream and Caramel Topping, Mango Tart, Peach Walnut Pie, Blueberry Cheesecake and White Chocolate Cheesecake

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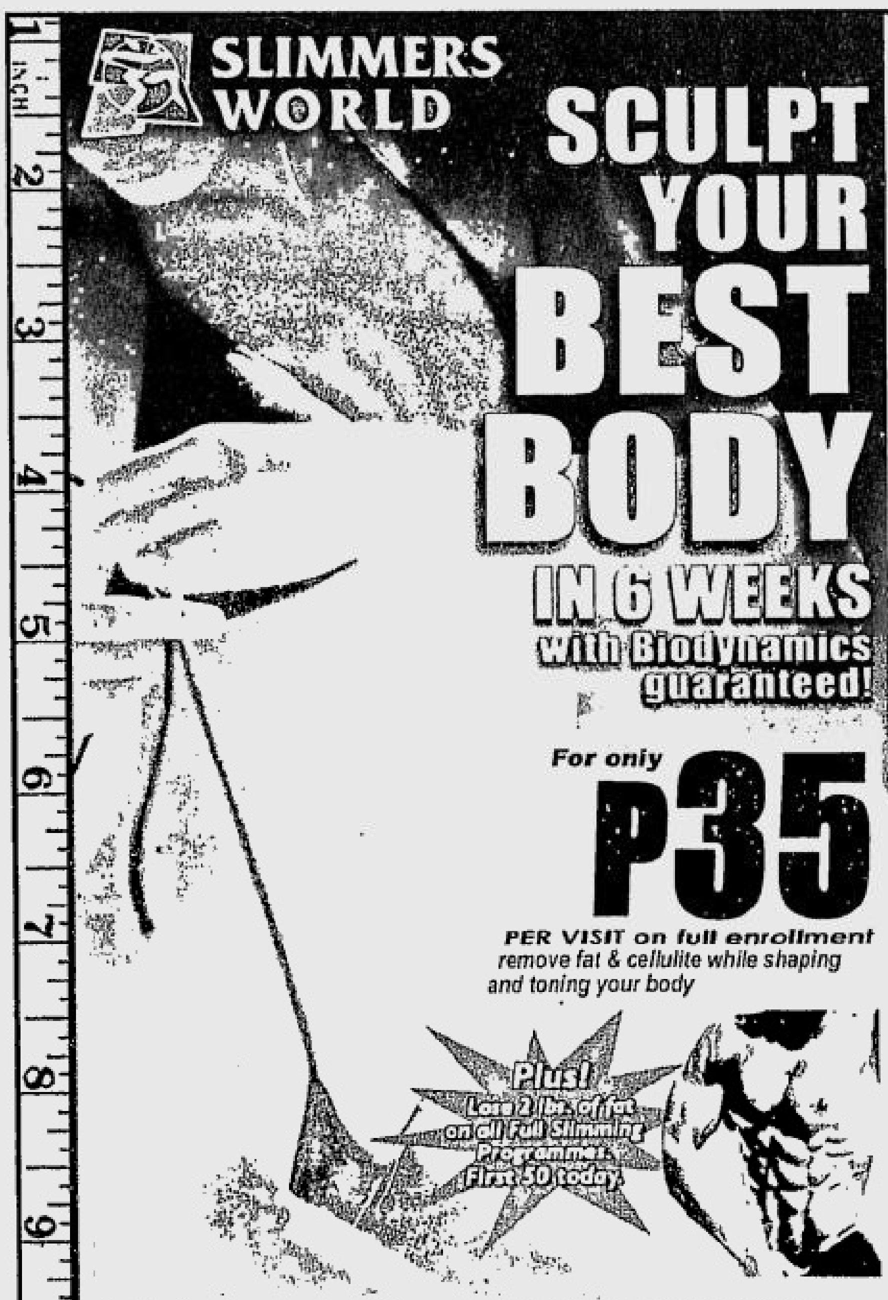

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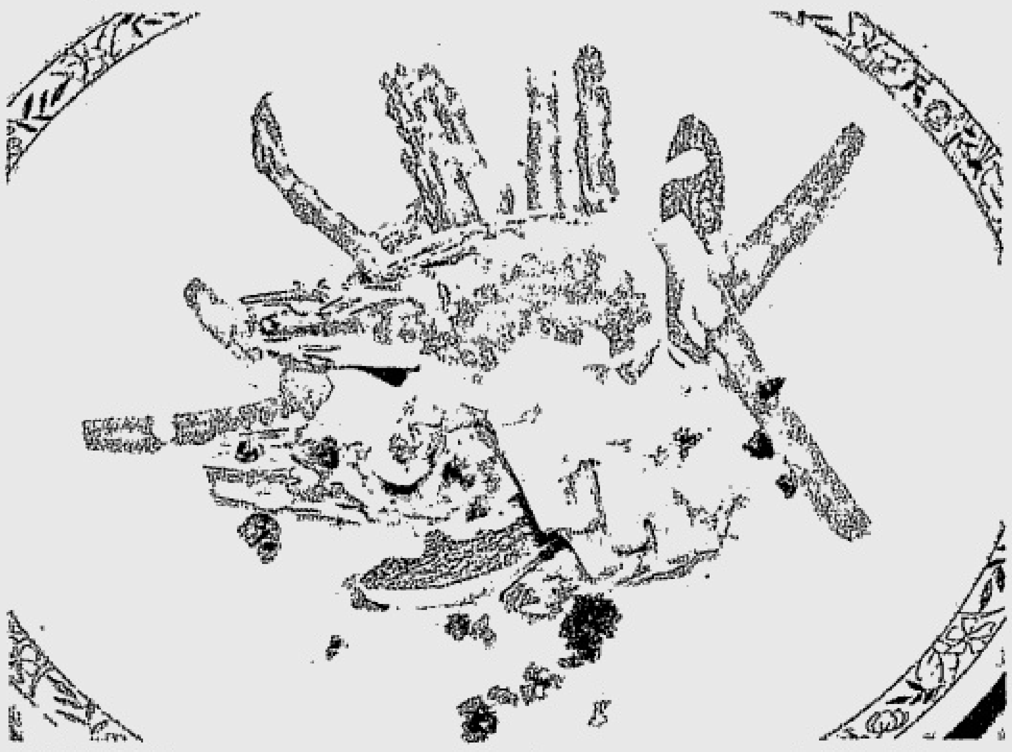
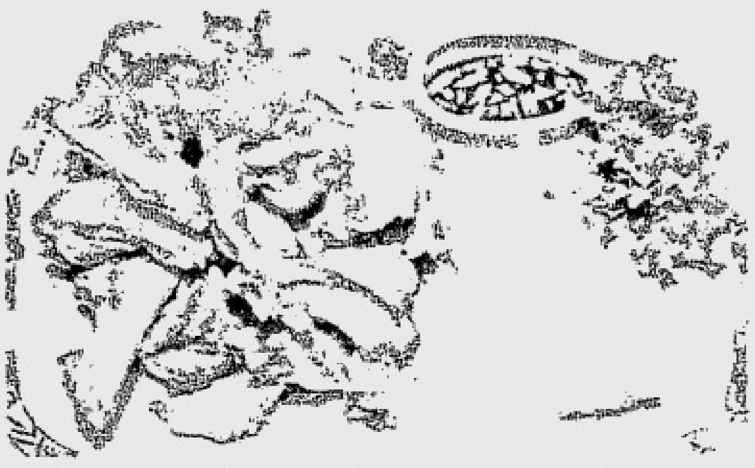
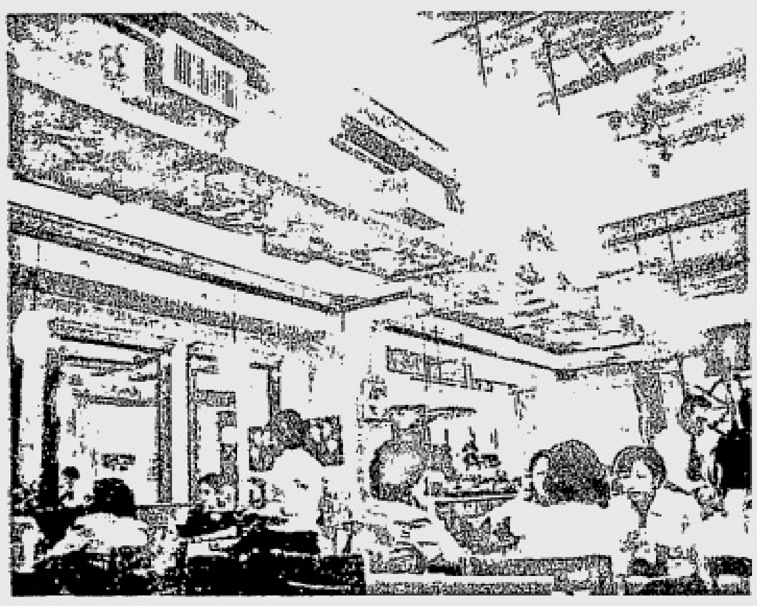
**RIB EYE** steak, 250-GRAM US-certified Black Angus, with herb butter and creamy corn


**LANGOUSTINE** Tropicale is layers of prawns and green asparagus topped with fresh fruit concassé and salmon roe

**CLAM** Chowder served with garlic croutons and tomato concassé


**GERMAN** Crispy Pork Knuckles served with garlic rice, sauerkraut and spicy soy vinaigrette


**ZUCCHINI'S** cozy interiors

# Culinary coup, eye candy and good music

From page D1

delight. It is creamy and tasty. The bits of seafood and vegetables melt in the mouth, creating a real experience for the palate. The croutons and tomato concassé add even more flavor to the already flavorful soup.

Both fruit lovers and salad connoisseurs will enjoy the Citrus Salad served on a basil herb Parmesan basket with cilantro cream vinaigrette and honey *dalandan* reduction. The sweet chunks of juicy *pomelo* are tempered by the strong flavors of the vinaigrette, creating a gastric adventure that's as memorable as it is refreshing.

## Pata, the German way

Crispy *pata* lovers will enjoy Zucchini's version of the popular treat cooked the German way. The German Crispy Pork Knuckles, served with garlic rice or mashed potatoes, sauerkraut and spicy soy vinaigrette, is tender and crisp at the same time.

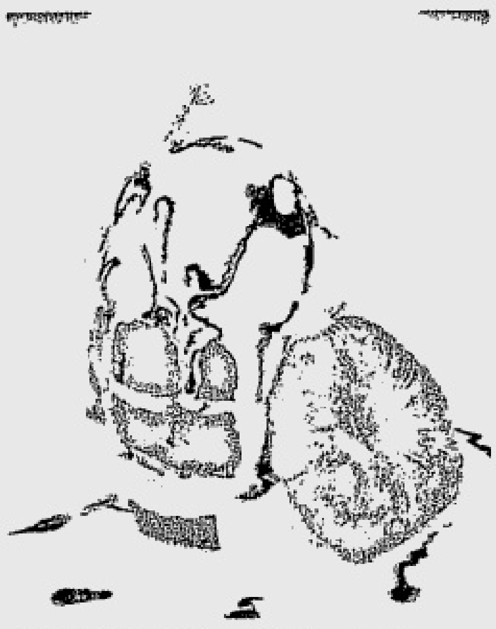
Another addition on the new menu is the Langoustine Tropicale, "layers of king prawns and green asparagus topped with fresh fruit concassé and salmon roe." The prawns are plump and fresh, the whole dish, rich.

The Parmesan Gelato with Balsamic Glaze on Sherry Wine Apple and Marinated Tropical Fresh Fruits is a harmonious combination of textures and tastes. The different flavors melt into heavenly spoonfuls of goodness.

Apart from the good food, Zucchini's is also a gallery of sorts with paintings and artworks of local artists displayed on its walls. Clients may buy the artworks, most of them created by The Saturday Group of Artists. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, a duo called Acoustic Souls—flutist Dothy Lumagui and guitarist Nestor De La Fuente—plays soft music. They play jazz covers, old favorites and even Norah Jones songs.

*Zucchini's, open daily 11 a.m.-11 p.m., is at 66 Timog Avenue, QC.*

*E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.*


**PARMESAN** Gelato with Balsamic Glaze on Sherry Wine Apple and Marinated Tropical Fresh Fruits

# Salads and fish for the health-conscious

**By Dorothy MJ Ferreria**
*Contributor*

THE TURBO broiler is a favorite kitchen appliance among dieters and the health-conscious. They can use it to broil fish without the hassle of setting up a barbecue pit, for instance.

Today, we have included three salads from which to choose a fitting side dish. The salads are low in fat and high in fiber—exactly what the health buffs out there want.

## Inihaw na Bangus sa Turbo

1 piece boneless *bangus*
salt to taste
freshly ground black pepper to taste
**Stuffing:**
1 tbsp minced ginger
¼ c chopped onions
¼ c chopped tomatoes
¼ c chopped green mangoes or *kamias*
1 tbsp chopped spring onions or leeks
**Dipping Sauce:**
soy sauce mixed with calamansi juice

Generously season the *bangus* with salt and pepper. Combine the ingredients for the stuffing in a bowl and fill the *bangus* with the mixture.

Lightly grease a piece of aluminum foil with oil. Place the fish in the center of the foil. Wrap tightly and cook in a turbo broiler set at 350° F for 25 to 30 minutes.

Unwrap the fish and transfer to a serving platter. Serve with dipping sauce.

## Cucumber Salad

1 pc cucumber, sliced thinly into half rounds
½ c vinegar (*paombong* or cane)
¼ c water
3/4 c white sugar
1 tbsp corn oil
salt to taste
freshly ground black pepper to taste

Combine the ingredients in a glass or stainless bowl. Keep chilled.

## Mango and Tomato Ensalada

3 c ripe mango, cubed
¼ c chopped tomatoes
1 tbsp chopped spring onions or leeks
1 tbsp corn oil
2 tbsp *calamansi* juice
salt to taste
freshly ground black pepper to taste

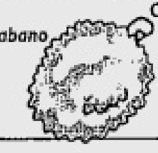
Combine the ingredients in a glass or stainless bowl. Keep chilled.

## Calorie-reduced Creamy Coleslaw

1 c shredded cabbage, blanched
½ c carrots, sliced into thin strips
¼ c well-drained canned crushed pineapple
¼ c raisins
2 tbsp chopped spring onions or leeks
3 tbsp white sugar
½ c fat-reduced mayonnaise
½ c plain yogurt

Combine the ingredients in a glass or stainless bowl. Keep chilled.

*Dorothy MJ Ferreria offers cooking, baking and cake decorating classes at Dorothy's Cooking School in Quezon City and at the Julius Maggi Kitchen in Makati. Call 7217735.*

| | Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner |
|---|---|---|---|
| **MONDAY** | Whole wheat cereal and low-fat milk<br>Whole wheat *pan de sal*<br>Cottage cheese<br>Sardines<br>Coffee, hot tea or fruit juice | *Sinampalukang manok*<br>*Kilawing puso ng saging*<br>Rice<br>Chilled *guyabano*  | *Misua* soup<br>*Inihaw na bangus sa turbo*<br>Cucumber salad<br>Rice<br>Papaya shake |
| **TUESDAY** | Tuna sandwich spread<br>Toasted bread<br>Low-fat margarine<br>Cheddar cheese<br>Coffee or iced tea<br>Papaya with *calamansi* | Clear soup<br>Calorie-reduced creamy coleslaw<br>Beef steak with onion rings<br>Rice<br>Fruit gelatin | *Pancit bihon*<br>*Lumpiang Shanghai*<br>Fresh pineapple |
| **WEDNESDAY** | Soft-boiled eggs<br>Bread<br>Vienna sausage<br>Coffee, low-fat hot chocolate or tomato juice<br>Fresh pineapple | Roast chicken<br>*Pinakbet*<br>Mango and tomato *ensalada*<br>Rice<br>*Minatamis na saba* | Steamed fish<br>*Adobong kangkong*<br>Rice<br>Coffee jelly |
| **THURSDAY** | Oatmeal with low-fat milk<br>Bread<br>Cheddar cheese<br>Margarine and fruit jam<br>Coffee or fruit juice<br>Sliced bananas | Instant hot and sour soup<br>Pan-grilled pork chops<br>*Gisadong gulay*<br>Rice<br>*Buko* sherbet | *Kalabasa* soup<br>*Arroz a la Cubana*<br>Fresh fruit salad |
| **FRIDAY** | Omelette with onions<br>Canned sardines<br>Steamed rice<br>Coffee or fruit juice<br>*Guyabano* | *Pesang manok*<br>Rice<br>Fruit and *sago* salad | Sweet and sour fish<br>Vegetable chopsuey<br>Fried *bihon* or rice<br>Canned peaches with ice |
| **SATURDAY** | Carrot muffins<br>Coffee, hot chocolate or iced tea<br>Fresh papaya and yogurt | Clear soup<br>Tossed green salad<br>*Paella*<br>*Leche flan* | *Bulalo*<br>Rice<br>*Sago at gulaman* |
| **SUNDAY** | Rice<br>*Paksiw na isda*<br>Coffee or iced tea<br>Fresh fruit platter | Pork and chicken barbecue<br>Grilled corn on the cob<br>Potato salad<br>*Maja blanca* | Instant ham and corn soup<br>Steamed fish with *tausi*<br>*Tokwa't baboy*<br>Rice<br>Ice cream |

## *Cooking with Reggie Aspiras*

SEPT. 19: Paella Filipina—*Taba ng Talangka* Paella with Mixed Seafood and Vegetables, *Paksiw na Lechon* Paella with stewed banana blossoms and *lakatan* relish, *Bistek Tagalog* Paella with caramelized shallots and lemon soy dressing, Capsicum *Afritada* with saffron paella, *Arroz a la Cubana* Paella with taro and banana chips

Sept. 22: *Lutong Bahay* "Gourmet Filipino" (highly recommended)—Tomato *Sinigang* with mixed meat and vegetables, *Ube* Chicken Rice, *Afritada* with roasted bell peppers, Eggplant and Chicken *Tinola*, Lamb *Tortang Talong* with honey catsup, *Binagoongang Baboy* with garlic chips, *Pandan Gulaman*, dipping sauces

Sept. 24 (morning class): Chocolate Romance—Old-Fashioned Mud Pie, Truffle Cake, Black and White Cheesecake, Turtle Cake, Fudgy Peanut Butter Cake, Delicious Turtle Pie (afternoon class): Carribean Cuisine 101—Bouillabaisse Caribbean Style, *Rabo Encendido* (Ox-Tail and Tongue Stew), Authentic *Arroz a la Cubana*, Guava Ribs, *Barbacoa de Cordero* with Caribbean Paella, *Bacalao* Stew Caribbean Style, Fried *Leche Flan* with rum

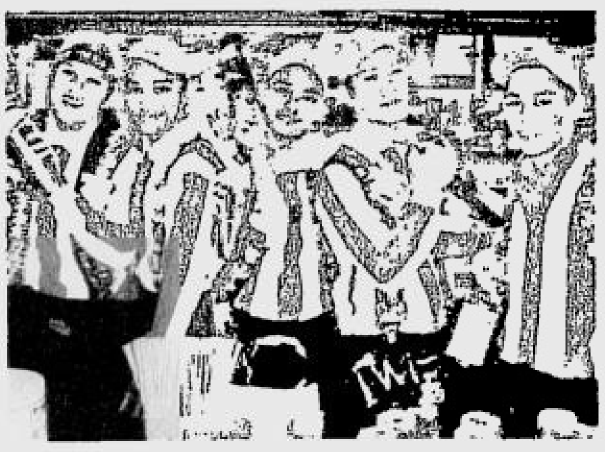
Sept. 26: Gourmet hot pot/*shabu-shabu*—a meal in a pot, easy to prepare and delicious-beef, chicken, pork, lamb, fish, vegetables. *Shabu-shabu* and hot pot marinades; dipping sauces and relishes

Sept. 29: Soup, salad and sandwich combinations— Seafood Tacos with *chorizo* seafood soup, Ham and Apple Sandwich with broccoli soup, Clam Chowder with roast chicken salad sandwich, Grilled Mixed Cheese Sandwiches with fruit, Montecristo Sandwich with oldfashioned green salad with egg mustard dressing

Oct. 1 (morning class): Wellington, highly recommended—Classic Beef Wellington with three sauces—Bernaise, mushroom and Madeira, French Seafood Wellington, Pork Wellington with Apple Sauce and Caramelized Squash, Lamb Wellington, Chicken and Spinach Wellington (afternoon class): Gourmet *Bibingkas* (all new!)—Flavored *Bibingkas* with prosciutto, Four Cheeses: Mascarpone and *itlog na maalat*, *Pandan*, Sweet Corn, *Ube*, Chocolate.

The Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts is located at the 3/F, Bon Appetit, Shangri-La Edsa, Mandaluyong.

Call 9289296, 9273008 or 6335162.



# TGI Friday's holds bartending tilt

TGI Friday's will choose the rightful king to its bartending throne this Sept. 24 at Friday's Hotel Rembrandt Tomas Morato, Quezon City.

Battling it out for the crown are (from left) Jhun "Samurai X" Dalusag of Friday's Glorietta, Larry "Flair Devil" Guevara of Friday's Robinsons Place Manila, Troy "The Spawn" Ilarde of Friday's Quezon City, Ruel "Twister" Cuadra of Friday's Alabang and John Rey "Astro" Talavera of Friday's Sta. Lucia.

Winner will represent the country in TGI Friday's Asian Barterding Championship in Malaysia and will go home with P10,000 in cash and premium prizes from Nestea, Big Scoop Ice Cream, Lucky Strike, Jag Jeans and Junnel's. TGI Friday's Philippine Bartending Championship began in 1995 and has been held annually since then.

# Cable TV subscribers air complaints

**THE CONSUMER**

*Marietta Velasco Giron*

SKYCABLE subscriber Mars B. Amarillento of Davao City just wants to know why the monthly payment is always due on the 15th instead of the last day of the month. Subscribers who fail to pay on the cut-off date pay a surcharge for delayed payment. Amarillento wants to know why they can't make it end of the month like other service companies.

Customer service associate Katrina Garcia explained that service companies have different cut-off dates in their billing systems. She advised the subscriber to write to the manager of the company in Davao City about the inconvenience of the system.

Another SkyCable subscriber wants to know where to address his complaint about installation service in Mandaue City, Cebu. Jimmy R. Miguel wrote last Sept. 12 that he tried to apply for a cable connection to his new house.

Initially his application was denied because, according to the contractor, installation required that the distance from the cable TV post to his house should be 200 ft. His house was 250 ft away from the post.

A month later, somebody from the cable TV company called him up to say that his application was being reconsidered. Again, a contractor measured the distance from his house to the cable TV post. This time, the contractor said the distance was 266 ft. He added that the distance for the installation of cable wires should be 200-250 ft.

Miguel complained, "Why is there a discrepancy in the measurement and the distance required by SkyCable to install the (connection)? They were the ones who called us up and promised immediate installation."

Katrina Garcia of SkyCable-Manila advises Miguel to air his grievances directly to the manager of the Cebu office. The cable TV company in Cebu, she explains, is a subsidiary of the Manila company and may have different requirements.

Garcia adds: "In Metro Manila, for example, the required cable length is 120 meters from the street post to the television unit in the house of subscribers. In excess of 120 meters up to a maximum of 230 meters, the subscriber has to pay P15 per foot. Beyond 230 meters, the reception may be blurred or distorted."

Another subscriber wants to know how to claim prizes in the SkyCable promo called Text 2, Take 5. According to Garcia, prizes and list of winners are available at the SkyCable office at the ground floor of Ben-Pres Building, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

We sincerely appreciate Garcia's help and prompt response. For more information, call her at telephone number 6367591.

> The checkpoint is obviously targeting motorists going to and from the airport and not village visitors

## Looking for winners list

We cannot say the same about the marketing people of Smart to whom we referred the following letter from Chic (chic_snuffles@yahoo.com).

She wrote, "We have been trying to find out if a certain Smart promo is still going on. To join the game and win a prize, you text codes of certain consumer products to 399 (I think you can also text the serial number of your prepaid Smart card). We have been searching in the newspapers for the list of winners in the draw these last two months. Where do we get the list?"

Well, we called Smart's marketing office and got the following information from Katherine Wong. The list of winners was published in the Manila Bulletin. However, she doesn't know the exact date of publication at the time we called up. For more information, call her at 5113282 (direct line) or 8110211 (trunk line).

## Praises for Destiny Cable

Eileen Clement (eiclem@yahoo.com) wrote: "I would like to commend the outstanding service of Maricel Banawa of Destiny Cable's customer service department for treating customers right. She knew how to communicate and address the concerns of customers with respect. Other customer service reps should learn from her."

Maybe Banawa can do something about our problem regarding the screwed-up recording system of the billing section. As in previous years, we paid in advance a full-year's subscription under account number 41334254. A Destiny representative came to our house to collect P4,900 representing "one-year pre-payment" as reflected on official receipt #145504 issued to us on March 21.

The billing section should not be sending us a statement of account amounting to P450 for Aug. 23 to Sept. 16 and charging a total amount due of P2,621.33.

That was not the first time we were erroneously billed.

## Multinational toll

Parañaque resident Rave Lei Syptuco echoed the sentiments of readers who sent feedback on the complaint of Emy Medina about the Multinational Village checkpoint. In her letter, Syptuco gives non-residents of the area an idea where the controversial gate with the checkpoint is situated. Motorists without village stickers on their cars are charged P20 for passing through the gate. This causes traffic congestion in the area.

Syptuco wrote: "It is true (as Medina said) that the village association has set up a new checkpoint. It has two portable boom gates manned by a number of armed private security guards and representatives of the association. This is located at the lower end of a T-intersection. The right side of the T-section leads to Naia, about a couple hundred meters away. The left side leads to the Multinational Village gate, also a couple of hundred meters away. The lower segment of the T, where the new checkpoint is located, leads to Merville, Moonwalk and Better Living.

"The village entrance is far from the intersection, and is located on an exclusive road with its own checkpoint. Therefore, security issues cannot be used as a basis for charging tolls in other checkpoints.

"This checkpoint was previously demolished through the efforts of a Parañaque congressman. The checkpoint, because of its important location, is obviously targeting motorists going to and from the airport, and not village visitors.

"Village association people explained that jurisdiction over the road was now in the courts. Therefore, they were again at liberty to exact tolls from motorists. I think it is in the best interest of the association, the city government of Parañaque and the Metro Manila Development Authority to consider the sentiments of the general public."

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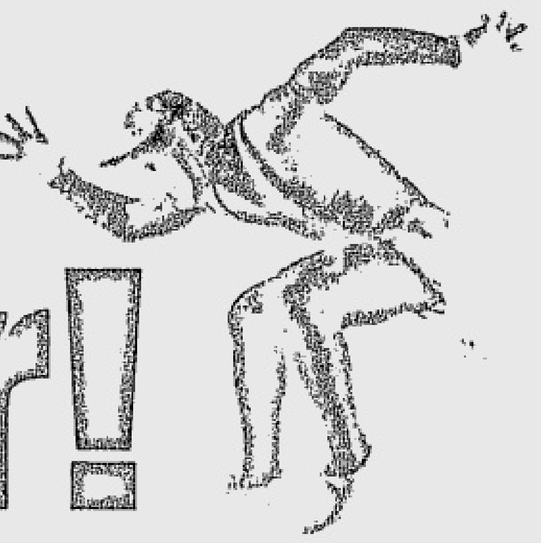
Glorietta 4 Lobby, Ayala Center, Makati
Come get to know different approaches to design for private homes and commercial spaces and be inspired by the unique STYLE of the Filipino artist



WAVE 89.1 BIGFISH CHIMARA AYALA CINEMAS DISH sportshouse All the games you play!
Seven days with Super!
This week-long launch will leave you Super! exhilarated
Day 5:
Super! X-posed
Super! gets naughty on Thursday night, Sept. 18, in Bed, Maria Orosa, Malate.Games and prizes await the wild and the willing.
For your dose of posh R&B, check out Steve Mills at Azzuro@Sommerset, Aguirre Street. Groove amid a plush scene of fun and fab. From 10p.m. onwards.
5
Day 6:
The Launch of Super!
This is one Super! weekend you will never forget. Big Fish and Addict mobile, Wrangler, Jose Cuervo bring in international DJ Danny Howells (top 12 in the world) to coincide with the launch of Super! He will be spinning at CATS disco of the New World Renaissance with our very own DJ Tuck Cheah at 10.p.m. After party to be announced. Super! surprises await everyone.
6
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SaturdaySPECIAL
Super!
7
Day 7: Super! "Circo Loco" with NBK
DJ Manolet Dario and percussionist Fritz Barth jam with Super! at Dream Bar 6750 at 10p.m. House music, anthems, Latin beats – a free flowing night of fun vibe and fab people.
*All events are on a first come, first served basis.
Your Super! tips to make sure you make it to the events:
1. Cut out the Super! logo found on the September 13 issue of Saturday Special Super!
2. Be at the gate when it opens on the specified time of the night. (Make sure you're there before the others do.)
3. Register your names to claim your freebies and to be a part of the raffle for the night.
4. Make sure you are identified as a Super! guest so wear your Super! buttons all the time. (Super! buttons will serve as your passport to the other nights.)
5. Have ultimate fun with the other Super! guests all throughout the week. Ain't that Super?!

# Never, never on a first date

**I WANT to ask if you can share with me a recipe for pasta in black sauce. I want to try doing it myself.**

MARIE

I see that like me, you are a black pasta fan. Can't blame you! By the way, the squid that I use is called *lumot* in the local market. This is the type that gives the darkest ink, which is ideal for pasta *negra*. The regular squid ink is not good enough.

First I save the ink, then clean the squid, slice it and boil it in water until tender. The squid is then ready for the recipe.

By the way, this is not recommended for those trying to make a good impression on their first date or those with braces. But if you can't resist it, just don't smile!

### Pasta Negra

1/3 c olive oil
¼ c garlic
¼ c onions
1/3 c tomatoes
1/3 c cooked squid rings
½ c white wine
2 c stock
squid ink (squeeze this out of the ink sack and use enough to make the sauce jet black)
¼ c fresh basil leaves
salt and pepper to taste
pepper flakes

In a saucepan, heat olive oil, then sauté garlic, onion and tomatoes. Add squid rings. Add white wine. Once the amount of the wine has lessened, add stock and squid ink. Simmer until the sauce thickens. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Add basil leaves and pepper flakes to taste. Serve over pasta. Garnish with whole sprigs of basil.

## KITCHEN RESCUE

*Reggie Aspiras*

**Can I ask for the recipe of the sumptuous cassava cake? Sometimes I crave for Pinoy treats...here in Canada. I attempted to make one but sob...sob...sob... I failed. Hope you could help me here.**

CESS

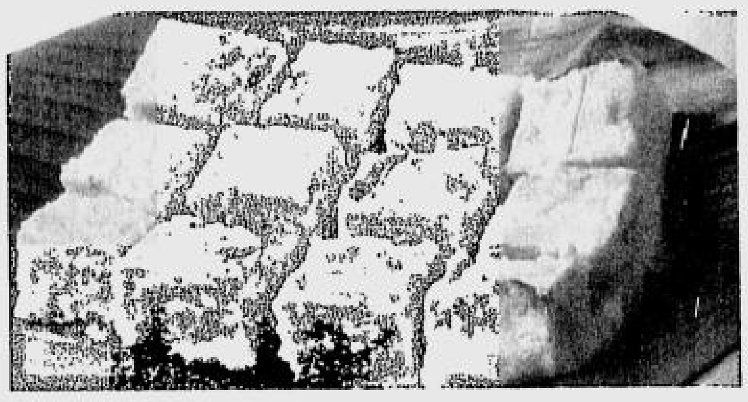
Once a Pinoy, always a Pinoy! I know how people crave for food that reminds them of home.

I did have horrible cravings when I was away so I know how it feels. From me to you Cess, a taste of home.

### Cassava Cake

1 ½ c grated cassava
½ c grated young coconut
½ c butter, melted
3 eggs, beaten
1 can evaporated milk
1 can sweetened condensed milk.
2 tsp vanilla extract

Mix cassava, coconut and butter. Slowly whisk in the eggs, evaporated and condensed milks. Spread in a 9" x 11" greased pan to no more than one-inch thickness. Bake in 350-400ºF oven for 25 to 30 minutes or until top is light brown. Cool before cutting.



CASSAVA Cake

**I am just starting self-study at home on baking. Where can I find shortening for my culinary activities?**

ROGER

Shortening can be found in just about any supermarket. Some of the better known and easy to find ones are Crisco and Lady's Choice. Good Luck on your new venture. Happy Baking!

**I am a college student in Davao and I live in a dormitory. I would like a recipe for hotcakes that are really fluffy. I can't find the exact recipe that would really satisfy me just like those sold at McDonalds.**

CHRISTINE

Pancakes, don't we all love them nice and fluffy? This is one of my best pancake recipes. Follow the recipe and in no time, you could be selling pancakes to McDonalds!

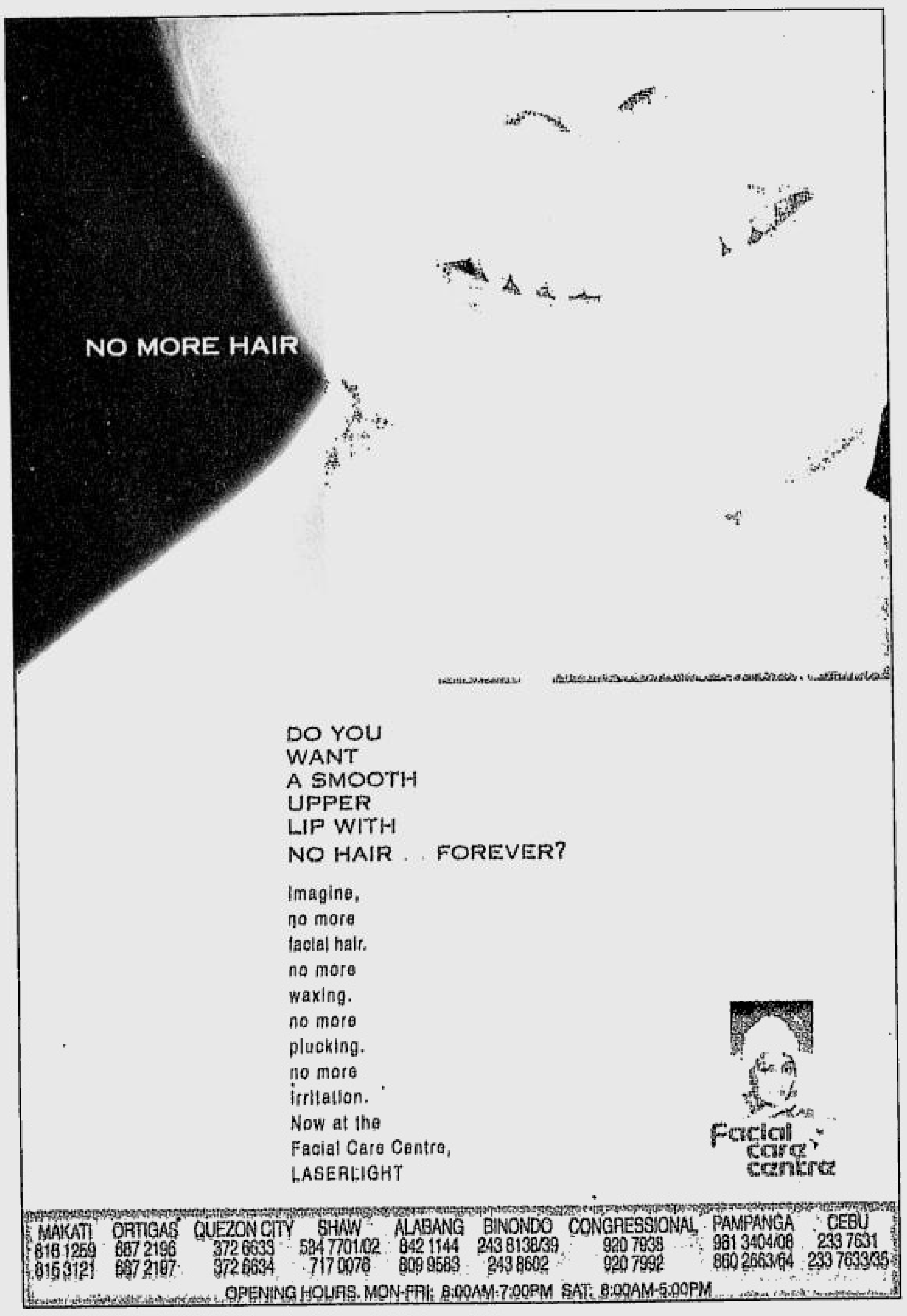
### Pancakes

2 c all purpose flour
¼ c sugar
1 ½ tbsp baking powder
½ tsp salt
2 c sour cream
4 large eggs, separated
1 ½ tsp vanilla extract
butter
pure maple syrup

Whisk flour, 2 tablespoons sugar, baking powder and salt in large bowl to blend. Add sour cream, egg yolks and vanilla and whisk until smooth (batter will be very thick). Using an electric mixer, beat whites in medium bowl into soft peaks. Add remaining 1 tablespoon sugar and beat until stiff but not dry; fold into batter. Melt butter on griddle or in heavy large skillet over medium-low heat. Working in batches, pour batter by ¼ cupfuls onto griddle. Cook until pancakes are golden brown, about 3 minutes per side. Serve with lots of butter and syrup.

I promise to be back with a vengeance next column. Been so busy lately that I can't even tell my fingers from my toes!!! Till then, bon appetit!!!

*For questions, comments and suggestions, e-mail the author at reggie1@skyinet.net*



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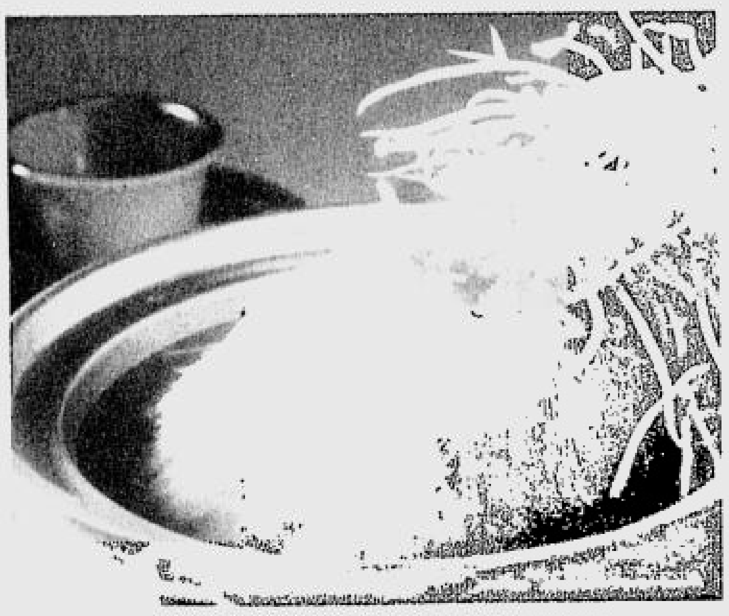
OPENING HOURS. MON-FRI: 8:00AM-7:00PM SAT: 8:00AM-5:00PM



EDSA Shangri-La's Summer Palace serves Superior Shark's Fin until Sept. 30: Braised shark's fin with crab roe, lobster meat, shredded abalone, bamboo pith, or chicken. Edsa Shangri-La's Nishiki features the Oyster Festival until Sept. 21. Call 6347373/6338888.

## What's cooking down South?

**DINING OUT**

WATERFRONT Cebu City Hotel and Casino is pulling out all stops for its culinary offerings this month. Guests have a wide choice of cocktail treats to munch on for only P395 from the Pool Aquarius, with complimentary use of the pool. Tin Gow offers lunch guests fresh seafood cuisine and La Creperie at Café Fortuna indulges crepe lovers with varied combinations every Sunday to Thursday. The Businessman's Lunch at La Gondola is for only P400. All these culinary treats are ongoing until Sept. 30. Call (032) 2326888.

BROTHERS Burger is promoting its Chili Burger topped with Chili Con Carne this month with French fries and your favorite 16 oz. drink for only P118. Brothers Burger has branches in Rockwell, Ortigas, Alabang, ABS-CBN, Pasong Tamo, Greenhills, Fort Bonifacio and Camp John Hay, Baguio City.

FIGARO and Purefoods-Hormel bring back Spam Croque, Pandesal Chorizo, Corned Beef Patty and BLT Pandesal with free freshly brewed coffee.

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Zero for 3 PROMO

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